Road rage leaves 6 dead in Imus, Cavite

By Maricar P. Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

A TRAFFIC ALTERCATION sparked a simmering family feud and a gunfight that left six people dead at the public market in Imus, Cavite, on Sunday night, police reported yesterday.

Supt. Ulysses Cruz, Imus police chief, said the family of Rey Bautista, 68, and that of Jovenal Solis, had an argument while aboard their respective vehicles on the road and that this continued at the market in Barangay Bayang Luma at 9:45 p.m.

ROAD RAGE, A5

SPORTS / A17
RP footballers test negative for swine flu

BUSINESS / B1
World Bank sees RP slipping into recession

METRO / A19
Napolcom suspends 6 QCPD cops over arrest of Failon relatives

ENTERTAINMENT / D1
Zsazsa would rather not confront Dong

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, June 23, 2009 ★ 6 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 195 P10 www.inquirer.net

METRO / A20
Teen nabbed for selling drugs to schoolmates

SPORTS / A16
Barnes, Glover ahead but US Open still undecided

Pinay with swine flu dies

DOH warns of 'more fatal' strain

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Christian V. Esguerra

IT FINALLY HAPPENED.

A 49-year-old woman died of heart attack at her home in Metro Manila on Friday, but a throat swab indicated she was infected with the Influenza A(H1N1) virus, making her death the first in the Philippines related to swine flu.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, who announced the woman's death at yesterday's briefing, stressed that the death was not caused by the virus but could have been aggravated by it.

The woman's death and the rise in the number of swine flu cases in the country and elsewhere have prompted the Department of Health (DOH) to gear up for a possible virulent strain of the virus.

Dr. Yolanda Oliveros, director of the Center for Disease Prevention and Control, said a second wave of the virus would take place if the virus mutated into a "more virulent and more fatal" strain.

PINAY, A6

IN THIS photograph posted on the Internet, a protester hits back at the Iranian riot police in Tehran on Saturday. A7

Iran military threatens to crush demos; protest leaders defiant

Media go to cyberspace in face of clampdown

TEHRAN, IRAN—IRAN'S Revolutionary Guard is threatening to crush any further opposition protests over the disputed presidential election and warns demonstrators to prepare for a "revolutionary confrontation" if they take to the streets again.

The country's most powerful military force ordered demonstrators to "end the sabotage and rioting activities" and said their resistance is a "conspiracy" against Iran.

A statement posted on Monday on the Revolutionary Guard's website warned protesters to "be prepared for a resolution and revolution to any confrontation with the Guards, Basij and other security forces and disciplinary forces."

IRAN, A10

CAIRO, EGYPT—PROTESTERS and security forces gather. They collide in a cloud of tear gas and a shower of rocks and bottles. In most cases—when the battles are big and the stakes are high—journalists from around the world are there.

But in the possibly history-shaping struggle now unfolding in Iran, the international media has been blocked from its normal frontline role and is quickly making adjustments to counter an official ban on firsthand reporting.

Instead of the noisy dispatches coming from the scenes, the equation has been greatly reversed. Many major news outlets now rely on phone calls, e-mails and Web chats—and other methods—to contact Iranian protesters and officials for information that bolsters the reports from colleagues in Tehran, who must remain in their offices.

The media clampdown also has been a test on other fronts—challenging the ability of authorities to control information in the Internet age and requiring editors and journalists to quickly decide what to pursue from the avalanche of rumors, tips and observations on social net-

MEDIA, A10

Schools suspend classes, ignore CHEd

By Philip C. Tubeza and Maricar P. Cinco

A SLEW OF SCHOOLS IN Metro Manila and Laguna have suspended classes as the Department of Health announced the country's first death linked to the swine flu virus.

Most of these schools have confirmed flu cases. Others have none.

So as not to create panic among the public, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) urged school officials not to suspend classes for their entire school if they have a confirmed Influenza A(H1N1) case.

"We shouldn't panic. If we panic, then everyone else will panic," CHEd Chair Emmanuel Angeles said.

Angeles issued the call as the University of Sto. Tomas (UST) Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, College of Nursing, and College of Rehabilitation

SCHOOLS, A6

ONE YEAR AFTER An unidentified woman holds up a picture of upturned hull of the MV Princess of the Stars that sank off Romblon's Tablas Island and took with it more than 800 passengers. MORE PHOTOS

Criminal raps filed vs Sulpicio owner, ship captain

One year after, still no closure for grieving kin

By Norman Bordadora in Manila and Jhanna Napallacan in Cebu

A YEAR AFTER THE MV Princess of the Stars tragedy, the Department of Justice (DOJ) yesterday announced that it had found probable cause to indict for the loss of hundreds of lives the ship captain who had been declared dead and a top officer of the shipping company.

Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said she had ordered the filing in the Manila Regional Trial Court of charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide against Capt. Florencio Maramara and Sulpicio Lines Inc. executive Edgar Go.

Bail was set at P122,000 for their provisional liberty. The Bureau of Immigration was also ordered to place Go and Maramara on its watch list to prevent them from fleeing the country.

Sulpicio Lines lawyer Manuel Espina declined comment, saying he had not been authorized to

CRIMINAL, A7

MV PRINCESS OF THE STARS TRAGEDY

By Jhanna Napallacan and Inje Sesante Leopoldo
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE grief remains, the search for justice continues.

A year after the June 20 tragic sinking of the MV Princess of the Stars at the height of Typhoon "Frank," there is still no closure for the relatives of the hundreds who died or remain still missing.

For a few others, it is time to let go.

Despite the lapse of one year, figures on the number of casualties were still conflicting as at last hurry. The Coast Guard says of the 866 people on board, only 53 survived and 348 have

ONE YEAR, A7

Sit down, let's talk, Pacman calls out to Sarangani bombers

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
Inquirer Mindanao

AFTER DISPOSING OF THE likes of Oscar De La Hoya and Ricky Hatton in the ring, Manny Pacquiao is now taking on a different foe: terrorist bombers.

Alarmed by last week-end's twin grenade attacks in Sarangani province that killed one person and wounded 32, the Filipino boxing king yesterday

SIT DOWN, A5

ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN Former Bocog Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, now deputy national security adviser (left), entertains VIP guests (from left) Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, boxing icon Manny Pacquiao, MWSS Chair Bayani Fernando and Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro at his birthday bash at his Baluarte residence in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur, on Monday.

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Southern Luzon	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Bicol	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo	Mostly Cloudy
Aparri	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Ilocos Norte	Partly Cloudy	Ilocos Sur	Mostly Cloudy
Dagupan	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Catarman	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

EZ2 (time drawn: 9:00 p.m.): 13 4 28 2

SUERTRES (time drawn: 2:00 p.m.): 2 9 4

4D (time drawn: 9:00 p.m.): 7 3 5

FOUR DIGIT (time drawn: 9:00 p.m.): 4 4 0 6

SUERTRES (time drawn: 9:00 p.m.): 2 5 2

MEGALOTTO 6/45 (time drawn: 9:00 p.m.): 10 14 15 31 34 35

P14,238,500.40

Too late now to unite opposition, says Ping

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT'S TOO LATE NOW FOR THE OPPOSITION TO come up with a common presidential candidate, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said yesterday.

Four opposition aspirants for the presidency are already deep in preparation for their respective bids, he said.

"It might be hard for them to withdraw now," Lacson said.

According to Lacson, the opposition members said to be running for president next year were Senators Loren Legarda, Manuel Villar Jr., Mar Roxas and Francis Escudero.

Asked whether he thought deposed President Joseph Estrada would run for president, Lacson said he did not know what Estrada's plans were.

The senator acknowledged that opposition votes would definitely be divided since there were four or five members gunning for the presidency.

For a while, Lacson himself was on the list of aspirants.

"That's why I gave way, so that only a few in the opposition will run," Lacson said.

Lacson conceded that it was supposed that Estrada was in campaign mode.

"Looking at what (Estrada) has been doing for sometime, going around the country for what he calls 'Lakbay Pananalamin' (thanksgiving tours)," it's obvious that (he) is political campaigning for 2010," he said.

Lacson said the former president still had to clear legal questions on his bid.

Lacson did not agree with Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile's statement the other day that Estrada, a former convict, could give reserve presidential aspirants a tough time in the polls.

Enrile said nobody can take that position because the Senate President is a member of Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino, countered Lacson.

"The (Erap) magic is still there but not to the same degree as when he ran for president in 1998," said Lacson.

People back then had high expectations of Estrada, who had served as mayor, senator and vice president.

But Lacson said it was possible that Estrada's conviction for plunder could have affected his drawing power.

Meanwhile, the presidents of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines over the weekend asked voters to reflect on the leadership set by candidates' lives. Dr. Aline Rimel will be discussing who to vote for in the 2010 elections.

The CBCP news website said Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro "specifically asked the youth... to test their right to suffrage wisely for the sake of public good entrusted and not selfish ends."

Lagdameo urged the electorate to look for Rizal's ways to prospective candidates. With a report from Norman Bordadora

CBCP head to GMA: Give others a chance

By Dona Pazzibugan and Kristine Alave

THE PRESIDENT OF THE Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to abandon any idea she may harbor of running for a seat in Congress in the May 2010 elections.

"She should give others a chance to serve their fellowmen," said Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro.

"She already experienced holding the highest position in the country. She already reached the peak so why run for a lower position?" Lagdameo said over Church-run Radyo Veritas.

Lagdameo cited this piece-over as Commission of Elections Chair Jose Melo clarified that there was no Constitutional impediment on a President running for a lower position.

While others may frown on her decision to contest congressional, it certainly would not be illegal, Melo explained in a phone interview yesterday.

"There is no prohibition in the Constitution or any law whatsoever that would prevent her from running for another position," the poll chairman said. It does not mean that she is abandoning the highest seat in the land and her duties, as granted by House President Jose Prospero Pichay, Melo said.

Enrile, according to Melo, has indicated that he has no intention that Arroyo must resign should she seek a new elective seat.

"Regardless of number, kasi ang contention in the legal circles, she does not have to resign," Melo said. She has the right to run for a lower elective post in the 2010 national and presidential elections "just like, say the senators, who run for congressmen," he added.

Asked if he thought the President's reported House run is her way of becoming the country's next speaker, Melo said this was just speculation.

"I don't want to speculate. I think this is her way of keeping her options open," he said.

FVR flays Malacañang on foreign travels

By Fe Zamora

FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL V. Ramos yesterday chided Malacañang for "inefficiency of planning" President Macapagal-Arroyo's foreign trips.

Talking to the media shortly before leaving for Mumbai, India, to host and co-chair the global meeting of Emerging Market Forum from June 23 to 25, Ramos said that Ms Arroyo was being criticized "not for frequency but inefficiency" in organizing her trips.

Since she assumed power in 2001, Ms Arroyo has made 10 foreign trips.

According to Mr, a "limited" method "less-donor" the trips have a "string of must or political visits involving four or five countries."

He said that Ms Arroyo's trip to Japan and Brunei was "not the first time example."

Early this year, Ramos recalled that Ms Arroyo also made an unscheduled "side trip" to Washington DC while traveling to the Middle East.

Ramos said government officials to the entourage should submit an accounting of their the trip. "Your personal expenses, this is still government time," he said.

But Malacañang yesterday claimed that the benefits accruing from President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent travels abroad outweighed the expenses.

"The probably is not going to reach even the P1 billion mark," Gary Olivar, deputy presidential spokesperson, said at the executive press in a media briefing.

Olivar said Ms Arroyo's visit to South Korea and Japan reaped a total of $2.2 billion and 25.3 billion in investment commitments, respectively. A separate travel to Egypt generated another $1.2 billion.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said people had every right to demand from Malacañang an explanation of the numerous foreign trips being taken by the President and Palace officials abroad explain.

He said people paying taxes were "entitled to know these trips, their purposes, what benefits had the country derived from them, and costs" to government.

With reports from Divine Grace Esguerra and Christine O. Avendaño

FLIGHTS President Fidel V. Ramos reviews a point during a press conference before leaving for Mumbai, India. EDDIE MARIÑAS

Bio-diesel project has President's full support

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS given her full backing to a multi-billion peso economic zone project in Bataan that involves the long-term lease of up to 400,00 hectares of public lands, according to the project's proponents.

In a briefing, Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) President Rolando Bautista, shareholders of the project's Philippine proponent Bioenergy SI, Inc., said President Arroyo met with Bion Japan-based partner Pacific Bio-Fields led by Mosaki Reynaldo during a recent trip to Tokyo and affirmed her support for the project.

Bautista said the Japanese proponents told the President they were ready to invest an initial $5.5 billion for the planting of cassava in northern Luzon, citing the ready market among Japan's public buses for co-methanol.

Aklan said the President has already ordered Environment Secretary Lito Atienza to expedite the release of documents identifying idle public lands that may be used for the project and granting project proponents initial right of up to 20 years.

Aklan did not say how much the group would pay for use of public lands.

The project was the subject of a Memorandum of Understanding between the DENR and the Philippine Coconut Authority.

Bautista said he has already secured planting contracts on 1,500 hectares of land in Pagsiklad, Dona Nieves. He added that a coconut mill would be built in Pamplona, Dona Nieves.

A farmers group had criticized the project as a "sell-out" to foreign investors.

But Aklan and Bautista defended the project, saying it would generate jobs for residents in the project areas and generate new taxes for the government.

Sandigan clears Atong Ang

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

CHARLIE "ATONG" ANG IS A FREE MAN.

The antigraft court Sandiganbayan has terminated the case against Ang, co-accused of convicted plunderer and former President Joseph Estrada.

In a resolution issued three weeks ago, the Sandiganbayan Special Division also revoked Ang's civil rights and lifted the hold departure order against him.

"He is a free man," his lawyer Ruth Castelo said yesterday. She has complied with the conditions of his probation."

The court based its order on the final report of Ang's probation officers Presentacion and Placido Office II Romeo Cachin, who told the court that Ang "has complied with the conditions of his probation" and recommended that "his probation be terminated and that all his civil rights lost or suspended on account of his conviction be restored."

"He was very happy," Castelo also told the lawyers. She said Ang marked his freedom with a small gathering of family members at his house.

Though Ang was a co-accused of Estrada, the court placed him on a two-year probation starting on May 2007 after he pleaded guilty to the lesser offense of bribery. Ang was a former gaming consultant of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.(Pagcor) during Estrada's administration.

His probation lapsed on May 23. His probation officer filed a report to the court on May 16. The court issued the order terminating his probation on May 28.

But court documents on probation cases are confidential, the Special Division explained. The lawyers were able to get a copy of the order only yesterday.

In the past few years, Ang had been staying in his house in the metropolis, although the Sandiganbayan allowed him to attend his daughter's wedding in the United States in January 2008.

RP, Brazil ink agriculture dev't pacts

THE PHILIPPINES AND BRAZIL will sign two agreements on agricultural development during the visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to Brazil this week, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

The first agreement, a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Agriculture between the Department of Agriculture and Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, will promote trade and investments in livestock and agribusiness development.

The two countries will share experiences and best practices in enhancing agricultural productivity to combat livestock, dairy, horticulture, food safety, agribusiness management, sustainable land management, genetics and biotechnology, processing and post-harvest technologies and agricultural machinery. It also covers exchanges in plant and animal science and cooperation in quarantine procedures for international transit of animal and plant products.

The second agreement, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippine Agricultural Development and Commercial Corp. (PADCO) and the Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuaria or the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corp. (Embrapa), will allow the two countries to cooperate in agricultural science and technology through joint projects.

"The Philippines and Brazil will commit to an exchange of scientists, experts and students, the organization of symposia and conferences, the joint publication of studies and papers, conduct of agricultural trade fairs and exhibitions, joint ventures and other means as may be mutually agreed upon," the DFA said.

This also includes training, technical assistance, germplasm exchange, provision of equipment, bibliography and technology commercialization.

Aside from the two MOUs on agriculture, Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo will sign with his counterpart an Agreement on Remunerated Employment of Dependents of Diplomatic, Consular and Administrative and Technical Personnel.

The agreement will allow dependents of Filipino and Brazilian personnel in their respective diplomatic and consular missions to work in their respective host countries. The Philippines has similar agreements with the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Chile, Spain and the Netherlands.

Cynthia D. Rebong

6 short-listed for high court vacant seats

THE JUDICIAL AND BAR COUNCIL (JBC) yesterday came up with its shortlist of six nominees from which President Macapagal-Arroyo would choose her next appointees to fill up the two vacancies in the Supreme Court.

The JBC in its meeting yesterday gave seven votes each to Sandiganbayan Justice Francisco Villaruz Jr., Court of Appeals Justice Ricardo Villarama and University of Sto. Tomas law school Dean Rufino Abad.

Also getting the JBC's and the isolation in the shortlist with five votes each are appellate court justices Hakim Abdulwahid and Mariano del Castillo and businessman-lawyer Rodolfo Ortiñez.

Villaruz is a member of the three-person Sandiganbayan special division that convicted deposed president Joseph Estrada of plunder in September 2007.

Other members of the special division Teresita Leonardo de Castro and Diosdado Peralta—are now members of the Supreme Court.

Villarama was a judge at the Pasig Regional Trial Court before he was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1998. Abad, on the other hand, was a former minister in Fidel Ramos's in the 1990's.

Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera didn't take part in the voting because of her pending application for inclusion in the shortlist.

The JBC, however, didn't consider her in yesterday's deliberations because the Ombudsman has yet to resolve her pending cases.

The JBC also didn't consider Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla in its deliberations also because of a pending case before the Ombudsman.

Those who voted in the deliberations yesterday were Chief Justice Reynato Puno, Sen. Francis Escudero, Quezon City Rep. Matias Defensor Jr., Justice Regino Hermosisima Jr., Jesus Arnulfo Fernandez, former J.Gonzalo Cortes and Justice Aurora Santiago-Lagman. Services that declare

are you stepping up on your SAFETY measures against A(H1N1)?

FLIR T360 Infrared Camera

Download A(H1N1) using FLIR Infrared Cameras as your frontline of defense.

call us NOW! : (632) 771-2039 to 41; email us : info@spectrumscientificcorporation.com

GMA allies to ram Con-ass after Sona

By Gil Cabacungan and Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-AR... says it after have lashed criticism of convening a constituent assembly when the Chief of State delivers the State of the Nation Address on July 27 as the first step in allowing Pres... Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to run for another term.

"That is one of the scenarios we have discussed because con-ass or new senators in attendance is enough to convene a Con-ass," Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan Jr. told reporters yesterday.

Ablan said that the Sona delivery was the best "window of opportunity" for the Con-ass because it was the only time that all congressmen and senators were together in one place.

The first session is the annual gathering of senators and congressmen at the Batasan to hear President Arroyo detail her accomplishments and plans before Congress convened in recess.

A number of senators have already announced that they planned to raid the Senate's vast "talking into the ring." But Ablan said the plan remained viable because he believed that a number of administration senators would still attend the session.

On Sunday, however, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said that he would make sure senators were out of the door of the Batasang Pambansa as soon as the House voted to convene a constituent assembly after the President delivered her Sona.

"If they will try to convene Con-ass, I will immediately adjourn the session of the Senate," Enrile said, calling such a move by the House as "illegal" and "unconstitutional."

Saying he knows his "parliamentary rules," Enrile said that before the convening of the joint session of Congress after... recess of July 27, the Senate and the House of Representatives would convene separately to pass a resolution "calling for a joint session of Congress."

"And we state the purpose (in the calling for a joint session of Congress)—to hear the State... message of the President," Enrile said.

"We will just hear the President's Sona and there will be no more agenda."

Senators have unanimously passed a resolution declaring the House bid to convert the Constitution without the benefit through a Con-ass as unconstitutional. They have also pledged not to participate in a Senate-less Con-ass.

Enrile doubted whether House leaders would pull off such a move as he gets assurance that the necessary votes will not happen and that even President Macapagal-Arroyo would not allow it.

"Even the President will not allow a thing like that. He's really very shrewd, the Gentleman," Enrile said on private radio station dzBB.

The presence of senators, albeit token, in a Con-ass will ease by administration lawmakers as necessary in order to give credence to what they planned as an act of Congress and not just one of its chambers.

Ablan said the plan to convene a Con-ass during the Sona was cooked up shortly after House Resolution 1109, which seeks to form a Con-ass to change the constitution with the two chambers voting as one and not separate bodies, was introduced on June 2.

As far as he was concerned, Ablan said, the Con-ass at the House was still part of the options being considered by the House leadership.

"It's up to our House leaders to decide whether we will do. We have to convene a Con-ass so that the Supreme Court can decide on it," said Ablan.

Oil firms hike oil prices

By Arlyn B. Rosas

INDEPENDENT OIL PLAYER Eastern Petroleum Corp. raised the pump prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter effective 12:01 a.m. today.

In the same time, Filipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. also increased prices of gasoline and diesel by 50 centavos a liter, and of kerosene, by 75 centavos a liter to reflect higher product costs.

Eastern Petroleum president and CEO Fernando Martinez said the hike would reflect movements of oil prices in the international market.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that the replacement cost of Dubai crude had gone up to $69 a barrel as of the first 15 days of June, from the $58-a-barrel average last month.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on MOPS also increased to $77 a barrel as of June 15 from the $66-a-barrel average posted in May.

FREE HAIRCUT
Gay hairdressers offer free haircuts to policewomen on Monday during the Gay Pride Week, which culminates in a colorful parade on Sunday.

Filipino gays arrested in Shanghai

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO is looking into the case of several Filipino men tentatively facing jail in Shanghai on prostitution and theft charges.

He said the Shanghai police picked the seven following complaints from other customers that they had been robbed by their Filipino partners in hotels or motels.

"I have asked the Philippine embassy in China to look into the conditions of these OFWs and to extend whatever legal assistance they would need," De Castro said.

"The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is also looking into this and has asked the consulate in Shanghai to ensure that their rights are respected," DFA spokesperson Ed Malaya said in an interview.

The Vice President lamented that incidents like this could drain the meager funds of Philippine missions abroad that could have been used for cases involving abused domestic workers.

2 Pinoy filmmakers win video challenge

By Abante Papa

TWO YOUNG FILIPINO FILMmakers have drawn the world what real democracy means in a three-minute video on YouTube.

"Long Live the Boston Man" by Alexa Bolaños and Miguel Gonzaga is one of six winners of the Democracy Video Challenge, from hundreds of entries for the YouTube Space on Sept. 15, 2008. The competition invited citizens around the world to engage in an online dialogue on the notion of democracy by submitting video shorts that completed the phrase "Democracy is..."

The video "Long Live the Boston Man" was shot in black and white and features a naked man with words about democracy written on different parts of his body. There is a voice-over narration on what democracy is most and should be.

"We don't [always] need artists as it would be simple yet much to stand to show that no one can take away your democratic rights," said Gonzaga, who is still in school, also in UP.

"Even if someone takes away [our voice], no one, no one can take away what you speak for you," Bolaños said, adding that they plan to make a full-length film soon.

PCMed
Your Hassle Free Computer Service, Repair and Maintenance!
Service Hotline: 303.9888
On Site Computer Service | Virus Removal | Preventive Maintenance

CHR broadens probe of Davao death squads

By Nikko Dizon

THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN Rights (CHR) has formed an inter-agency task force to investigate the rising number of vigilante-style killings of suspected petty criminals, including children, in Davao City.

In a statement, the CHR said it had "compelling reasons" to broaden its probe into a wide-ranging inter-agency to "facilitate the resolution of issues, such as witness protection, drugs, arms, crime and accountability of public officials, among others."

More than 900 people, including minors, have been killed since the first reports of vigilante killings in 1998. Early reports pointed to a so-called "Davao Death Squad" as being behind the killings, allegedly with the backing of powerful local government officials.

The CHR-led task force will include the military, police, the National Bureau of Investigation, the DILG, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Department of Justice (DOJ), among others.

The Constitution empowers the CHR to convene a multi-agency group and request the assistance of any department, bureau, office or agency to help investigate human rights violations in the country.

Last March, the CHR began a series of public inquiries into the killings in Davao City. Most of the victims were suspected criminals involved in petty crimes.

"The Davao Death Squad/ phenomenon is a paradox in itself where a city, which prides itself on its peacefulness and orderliness, is also plagued by unsolved string of vigilante killings," the CHR said.

United Nations Special Rapporteur for Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions Philip Alston had expressed concern about the rising numbers of vigilante killings in Davao, saying that some were children suspected of pickpocketing.

Alston also noted in a report last year that extrajudicial killings were occurring in various parts of the country, targeting mostly political dissidents, labor leaders and journalists. He suspected it was connected to the government's attempt to eradicate the communist insurgency but not Filipino Muslim separatist groups down to 2008.

Human rights advocates estimate more than 800 extrajudicial killings since Ms Arroyo's term began in 2001. Government claimed it was behind those killings but concentrates in such cases have been few.

PROtech
Torched and battered for 10 hours, this APOLLO SAFE frustrated pawnshop robbers

DON'T CHANCE IT. PROTECH IT.
PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY, INC.
Physical Security Equipment
www.protech.com.ph

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 23, 2009
12th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gen 13:2, 5-18
Gospel: Mt 7:6, 12-14

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not give what is holy to the dogs, or throw your pearls to the pigs, they might trample on them and turn around and tear you to pieces.

So, do to others whatever you would that others do to you; this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Enter through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many do enter by it. How narrow is the gate that leads to life and how few find it. Few there are who find it."

Commentary

Today, Jesus tells us not to cast our pearls before swine. As we preach the Good News of the Gospel to everyone, we must take care that we are not casting our pearls before swine. In order to do this, we should have the courage to find out if the people we are preaching to are willing to hear the Gospel message. If they are not willing to hear the Gospel because they are unable to respond in the same way, we must make a judgment and abstain when we say, when, and how to say it. Jesus is not telling us that someone is a lost cause and that anything we say to them is a waste of time. Rather, he is telling us that we must be careful not to waste the Gospel message. Jesus told his disciples that some would heed their message, others would not. But in any person we talk to and believe that we will share about Christ. If a person does not heed our warning about the judgment to come and if they reject the good news – about it nothing else we can do!

Our Sunday Visitor Philippines, Inc., Editorial & Advertising Offices: 2nd Floor, CFP Bldg. 4 Pinatubo cor. Banawe Sts., Quezon City, Philippines 1103 P.O. Box 154, 1103 Q.C. Tel. 372-2277 E-mail: osvfilipinas@yahoo.com Website: http://www.osvfilipinas.com or http://www.osvfilipinas.org Subscription rates: Philippines: 1 year P1,200.00; 2 years P2,400.00; 3 years P3,600.00 Overseas: 1 year $100; Surface Mail, Europe, Middle East, Africa: 1 year $120; Airmail: Japan, Australia, New Zealand: 1 year $150; Airmail: America: 1 year $200 Agent: Philippine Daily Inquirer

OFW in coma for one year arrives in Manila

By Cynthia D. Balana

OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKER Ruben De Leon Jr., who woke up recently after being comatose for a year in Jeddah as a result of a car accident, arrived in Manila yesterday, the Department of Foreign Affairs announced.

Ed Malaya, DFA spokesperson, said De Leon arrived on an Air Emirates flight at the Philippine Consulate in Jeddah Benedict Tago informed the DFA of the repatriation of De Leon.

De Leon, 23, arrived at 3:45 p.m. yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino International via Saudi Arabian flight PR0905.

Malaya said that De Leon was escorted on his flight home by his attending physician, Dr. Ashraf Abdulaziz Ibrahim, a cardiac thoracic, a therapist with the Dr. Soliman Fakeeh Hospital in Arabia, and her cousin, Paul Newjohn Mercado.

"DFA's Overseas Workers Welfare Administration has informed the family of Mr. De Leon of his impending arrival and made his air ambulance to transfer Mr. De Leon from the airport to his residence in Tarlac," Malaya said.

He said that OWWA has also made an agreement for the continuing rehabilitation of Mr. De Leon and medical support.

Tago said Dr. Ibrahim informed him that De Leon needed no further surgery but would require physiotherapy or rehabilitation to achieve full recovery.

Tago said that De Leon would receive insurance benefits from the Jeddah-based Saudi Binladin Group and the OWWA and monetary claims from his employer which will be used to cover his physiotherapy expenses in the Philippines.

The DFA's Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs will meet with De Leon on the processing of his claims.

MyVote MyTurn

Navy whistle-blower runs to SC for help

Elections Q & A

1) Can I register?

Yes, if you are:

- a Filipino citizen at least 18 years of age on election day
- a resident of the Philippines for at least one year, and in the place where you propose to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the election
- not otherwise disqualified by law, such as any person who has been sentenced by final judgment to suffer imprisonment of not less than one year, or judged by final adjudgment of having committed crimes such as rebellion, sedition, violation of the firearms laws and against national security, insane or incompetent person as declared by competent authority

2) What are the requirements?

- a valid ID with photograph and signature

3) Where can I get an application form?

- at the Office of the Election Officer in the municipality/city where you reside
- at http://www.comelec.gov.ph/downloadables/2010%20elections/registrationguide_elec2ndEdition.pdf

4) Up to when can I register?

- If you are in a Sim-AFMM area: Oct. 31, 2009
- If you are an Overseas Absentee Voter: Aug. 31, 2009

You may email your questions on registration and other election concerns to 2010elections@inquirer.com.ph

Source: Commission on Elections
Compiled by: Inquirer Research

By Norman Bordadora

WHISTLE-BLOWER NAVY Lt. Nancy Gadian yesterday asked the Supreme Court to amend the Court of Appeals decision that recognized threats and pharm?ter under the protection of Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro.

Gadian, through her lawyers, asked that the appeals court decision on her petition for a writ of amparo be amended to allow the Catholic Church group, Association of Major Religious Superiors, to continue giving her protection and sanctuary.

She also asked that the AMRS be given the means necessary to continue giving the protection and sanctuary under the writ of amparo.

Gadian sought and was granted the writ of amparo on claims that her life, liberty and security were under threat in connection with her allegations that more than P40 million in funds meant for the June 2007 ARMM elections was misspent by military forces.

The Navy lieutenant was apparently uncomfortable about being given protection by the Secretary of National Defense, especially after Teodoro released a statement expressing concern for the military chain of command and discipline when her petition for a writ of amparo was pending before the Court of Appeals.

"This is a clear indication that the Secretary, now tasked with protecting herein Aggrieved Party-Petitioner, is more concerned with the military chain of command than [Lt. SG Gadian's right to life," the petition said.

Gadian also argued that while the Department of National Defense was civilian in character, "it could only extend protection to herein Aggrieved Party-Petitioner through its military personnel."

"This is unacceptable and cautions us lay us because of the obvious security risk posed by military personnel protecting a military whistle-blower whom the Court of Appeals found to be the subject of threat emanating also from the military institution," the petition added.

Road rage leaves 6 dead in Imus, Cavite

From page A1

There, electronics technicians the group of Ibrahim, his sons Richie and Buffy and driver Michael and Jalili and his son Mahmud Sobut wrapped him an exchange of fire. The groups were armed with hand guns.

Cruz said the Bautistas owned an ice plant in the area, while Jalilian operated a cell phone and DVD store.

The victims were rushed to the Lady of Pilar Hospital, where five were declared dead on arrival, while Sobut died yesterday morning, he said.

The two families were known rivals in the town, Cruz said, believing the encounter to be business-related.

But Bacoor Mayor Strike Revilla, who said the elder Bautista was a cousin, said the shooting had nothing to do with business or politics.

"It was a simple case of misunderstanding that became heated and blew up," Revilla said.

He said Bautista's daughter was reportedly hacked by the other group and she resulted in shock and unconsciousness.

Revilla said Richie had just returned home from abroad to attend the wedding of Buffy on Saturday.

Sit down, let's talk, Pacman calls out to bombers

From page A1

BORER-POLITICIAN Manny Pacquiao greets close friend Bernardo Bacoro, Bar Con Gob. "Chavit" Singson on his birthday Sunday in Vigan City. Bacoro (far) Pacquiao came with his wife and three children.

called on the attackers to sit down with him for talks on restoring peace in the area.

But a surprising move from a man President Macapagal-Arroyo recently named as ambassador for peace. Pacquiao has also declared his intention to run in 2010 for the lone congressional seat of Sarangani.

"I am asking them (the attackers) to dialogue with us so we can discuss whatever problem there is," Pacquiao, speaking in Filipino, told reporters.

Pacquiao stressed the importance of dialogue in resolving conflicts.

"We should resolve whatever problems there is by talking," he said.

Helping the victims

Pacquiao won't just all talk. Upon learning about the insurgent attack, Pacquiao rushed to see the 32 injured victims in various hospitals and gave them financial aid ranging from P2,000 to P5,000 each.

This was aside from the P50,000 cash he gave social welfare officials as initial assistance for the victims.

"While on national politics, I really try to help people," Pacquiao said.

Fight with Corta

Pacquiao was meeting with tourism officials in Malapajon town, where he is the tourism council chair, when he received the news about the grenade blasts which occurred during a fiesta celebration in Maasim town.

Pacquiao said he was stunned by the news.

One wonders how much time his boxer as a peace-lover will take away from his training for his next fight, possibly against World Boxing Organization welterweight champion Miguel Cotto of Puerto Rico. The fight is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 14.

M82 type

A military bomb expert said the grenades used were an M82 model, which is said to explode three to five seconds after the safety lever is pressured.

Before the blasts, Lt. Col. Edgardo De Leon, the Army battalion commander based in Maasim, had asked help from a bomb disposal team on receiving intelligence reports about a planned bomb attack on the town.

A few minutes before the blasts ordered from General Santos, the explosions occurred.

De Leon blamed the attacks on rogue elements within the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

WORLD CLASS SLIMMING, FITNESS, FACE AND SKIN BY SLIMMERS WORLD

BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!

PLUS! Personal Training and all the Latest Aerobics!

PLUS! BIG DISCOUNTS on any Skin, Face & Body Treatments.

SPECIAL OFFER
GOOD UNTIL 10PM TONIGHT!!!

CORE POWER TRAINING PLUS BIOMETRICS

Is the Ultimate in FITNESS, FAT and CELLULITE LOSS. It's the way that Jolaida Niccolai Peña lost 20 lbs. under medical supervision to win the Slimmers World Bikini Body Contest.

Build great Gluteal Muscles
FREE OF CELLULITE!

- NO MONTHLY DUES ON LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP!
- NO JOINING FEES!
- CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%
- MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS.

Get lean, firm and sexy

with a great skin by...

Diamond Facial

SLIMMERS WORLD has launched a new treatment combining exotic herb FACIAL with DIAMOND ULTRAPEEL to give you a flawless skin. For further details inquire from our consultants.

"Ageless beauty in just 30 minutes!"
-Jolaida Niccolai Peña
Slimmers World
Bikini Body Winner

BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!

PLUS! BIG DISCOUNTS on Fitness, Slimming & Personal Training Programmes

SPECIAL OFFER
GOOD UNTIL 10PM TONIGHT!!!

CALL OUR ONE - STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR FITNESS, SKIN, BODY AND FACE.

FITNESS HOTLINE: 536-3333
SKIN HOTLINE: 525-8771
MOBILE NUMBER: 091- SLIMMERS (754663771)

www.slimmersworld.com.ph * inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

No end in sight for swine flu cases yet, says DOH exec

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE NUMBER OF SWINE FLU cases is not expected to go down soon, and the virus could theoretically infect millions in the country, a Department of Health (DOH) official said yesterday.

Dr. Lyndon Lee Suy, head of the DOH's Emerging and Re-Emerging Infectious Disease Program, said the attack rate of the influenza A(H1N1) virus was 23 percent.

"Twenty-five percent of the population could be affected by H1N1, meaning if on the attack rate, if you have 90 million people, 23 percent of 90 million will be expecting that H1N1 could hit them," Lee Suy said at a hearing of the House committee on health.

He later told reporters that the 25-percent attack rate was the one observed by the World Health Organization based on the spread of the virus worldwide, but he said the rate in the country was 20 percent.

Lee Suy said that the 25-percent rate was just a possibility, and that such a big chunk of the population may not actually be infected.

It may also take years before the virus could attack such a big number of people, if at all, he added.

Lee Suy explained during the hearing that based on the trend of the spread of the virus, in which cases jumped to more than 400 since the first case was confirmed in May, the number of cases in the country would really jump. It would probably breach the 1,000 mark, he added.

"That is part of the pandemic curve. As such a time that we have developed natural immunity, that is when the cases would go down," he said.

The Philippine Medical Association (PMA) has created a task force to work with the DOH to help address the spread of the virus.

Oscar Tinio of the PMA said the task force would develop programs and education campaigns by holding lectures about the virus and ways to combat its spread.

He said the PMA could easily mobilize to 42,000 members all over the country.

Lee Suy said that in the next few days, the DOH would release an administrative order directing all secondary and tertiary private and government hospitals to admit patients in cases.

But the DOH would first have to ensure that these hospitals have the necessary isolation rooms and other supplies needed to address the needs of the patients, he added.

Lee Suy also said that the DOH alone would not be able to provide all the necessary medicines for all the people infected by the virus due to budgetary constraints.

A WOMAN stands near to a swine flue alert notice outside a hospital in Manila on Monday. AFP

Pinay with swine flu dies

From page A1

As of yesterday, the number of A(H1N1) cases stood at 443 after 17 more people, including two foreigners, were confirmed to have the virus.

The World Health Organization has declared a flu pandemic. As of Friday it said more than 44,000 cases had been reported worldwide with 180 deaths, mostly in Mexico and the United States.

"We would like to emphasize that globally and locally, the overwhelming majority of cases only experience mild symptoms and eventually make a rapid and full recovery often even without any form of medical intervention," Duque said.

Of the 443 confirmed cases, 64 percent or 284 have already fully recovered, the DOH said.

Dry cough, fever

The woman came home from work on June 17, complaining of weakness, according to a DOH investigation.

She did not report for work the next day and went into self-medication (taking paracetamol) as the experienced dry cough, fever and chills.

On the morning of June 19, she developed breathing. She was restless and complained of difficulty in breathing. She died shortly before a doctor arrived.

Preexisting condition

Duque said the postmortem findings showed that the death was caused by "congestive heart failure secondary to severe myocardial infarction aggravated by severe pneumonia either bacterial, viral or both."

The woman was also found to have an enlarged liver, spleen and kidney rumor in the intestine and mild goiter.

"Given the available situation, we cannot conclude that the death is due to A(H1N1). But in other countries which have reported deaths, majority have preexisting medical conditions," he said.

The woman had not traveled abroad where she could have gotten the virus.

Duque said the DOH would not have known that the patient had the virus had her brother not called him up on June 19 requesting that the autopsy include a swab test for A(H1N1) since the patient had flu-like symptoms before her death.

Nasal-pharyngeal and throat swabs were taken on June 19. The test done by the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine came out positive.

Complicated case

"This is really a complicated case," Olivarez told reporters at the briefing.

"For the past several days, she was not feeling well because she had several medical conditions and a family history) claimed that she did not regularly seek medical attention," she said.

In keeping with its policy on confirmed cases, the DOH did not identify the woman.

Duque would only say that the woman was based in Metro Manila. Her husband and grown-up son have also been tested since they have flu-like symptoms. But the patient's mother, brother and sister have no flu-like symptoms.

Maintaining weight to downplay the death: "I don't think that we have to be alarmed considering that the patient died of cardiac arrest," Lourdes Espedido, Deputy presidential spokesperson, said at the briefing.

The Inquirer reported details related to the swine flu virus has prompted the health department to issue stronger warnings.

High-risk groups

Duque said the DOH would be "more aggressive" in targeting patients more vulnerable to fatal flu complications so they would get priority care.

The high-risk groups are those with uncontrolled diabetes, cardiovascular and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic liver and kidney disease, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other infections, organ transplant recipients; those who are immunocompromised; pregnant women and the very young (five years and below) and the elderly.

"We want to make it clear that high-risk groups, once they have the flu symptoms should immediately go to their doctors. They should not wait for their symptoms to worsen because they are prone to many intercurrent other than the novel virus such as our seasonal flu strains," Duque said.

See a doctor

The health secretary said it was prudent for parents to seek professional care for children with rapid breathing, excessive drowsiness or dehydration.

"In adults, chest pain, prolonged fever or labored breathing should prompt warnings or see a doctor," he added.

Duque said the best defense against swine flu and other communicable diseases was still to ensure one's immune system and to practice good hygiene like proper hand-washing and covering one's mouth and nose when sneezing to prevent spreading respiratory droplets.

"Most people can fight off flu virus without special medications or hospitalization. You can stay at home and take supportive care like plenty of fluids, vitamins and bed rest," he said.

The DOH has discouraged wearing masks in public since the virus is not widespread, and advised that only those who will be seen by those with flu-like symptoms to keep them from infecting others.

Masks are also reserved for caregivers and medical personnel.

In anticipation of a second wave, Olivarez said health authorities were preparing a more intensive response plan to include more "simulation exercises" to determine hospitals' preparedness.

She said authorities wanted to ensure that basic essential services continue. Companies are encouraged to come up with their respective "business continuity plans."

"The most important components in risk communications is to reduce panic," she said.

"Second will be health infrastructure to make sure that all our hospitals and health facilities are prepared to address the severity if there," Olivarez said.

EMPLOYEES of St. Scholastica's College in Manila wear face masks while on campus. School authorities suspended classes after confirming that a student tested positive for the swine flu virus. EPA

ONLY TEACHERS are back at Kamagayan Elementary School in Cainta, Rizal, where classes were suspended after two pupils tested positive for the swine flu virus. MARK LAUREN

Schools suspend classes, ignore CHEd

From page A1

Assistance, St. Scholastica's College-Manila, and Silliman University suspended their classes to prevent the spread of the virus after they acknowledged twice flu cases.

UST's College of Engineering decided to suspend its classes only for today because a previous suspension of having the virus was still being tested.

High schools

At the high school level, La Salle Greenhills in San Juan, Don Bosco Technical College high school department in Mandaluyong, and Deed Sportsbridge School in Alabang, Muntinlupa, also suspended classes after it was confirmed that each of them had a student who had the flu virus, according to Teresita Dionisio, director of the Department of Education-National Capital Region.

"There are private schools but I've told our superintendents to also monitor their situation. Depdi is now reviewing our response system because we can't keep on suspending classes just because of one case," Dionisio said.

Bentley

Bentley International School (BIS) in Lilac, Quezon City, suspended its classes for 10 days beginning on Saturday after one of their students also tested positive for the virus.

On the school's website, headmaster Jerome Castro said classes in all levels at Bentley would resume on June 30.

In an advisory posted on its website, Daniel Rodrigo Reyes, the executive director of Sanchangko School said the student came to school on June 17 and had been the following night.

On Saturday, the parents informed the school administration that the student tested positive of the virus.

To stop the spread of the virus, classes in all levels, from prep to high school, were suspended and reported to resume on July 3.

Football player

Reyes said the school could not divulge any information about the student. (He did not. One classmate confirmed if the student was the 14-year-old football player who participated in the Asian Youth Games.)

"We don't want to reveal his identity in order to protect our student and his family," he said.

The student remains confined at a hospital but has already been showing signs of recovering, Reyes said.

Apart from the suspension of classes, Reyes said Sportsbridge School had conducted a general cleaning of the entire school.

Preschool

In Biliman, Quezon City, CHED Development Center (CDC), a preschool based on the University of the Philippines, announced a 10-day suspension of classes as a preventive measure against the virus.

UP Vice Chancellor Benjy Hazeleno, however, said those wanting to continue to suspected cases are at the school.

Another UP Diliman student has tested positive for the flu virus as of Monday afternoon, bringing the total number of cases on the UP Diliman campus to three since last week.

General cleaning

St. Mary's in Crescent suspended classes from June 23-26 for general cleaning although it has no confirmed case yet.

However, some students have exhibited flu-like symptoms, according to Dr. Rachel Ira Zaipo, Crescent health officer.

St. Paul College-Pasay also suspended classes for 10 days although it has no confirmed cases. School officials said they made the move as a precaution and to conduct a general cleaning.

St. Paul College Makati only has preschool, grade school and high school unlike its counterparts in Manila and Quezon City.

Lenni Bisan, information office staff, said that though the Department of Health had cleared the school of swine flu cases, the precautionary measure was triggered by the principal's report a handful of students exhibited flu-like symptoms.

Angeles of the Child said that if a school had a confirmed case, then it should isolate that student, faculty member, or school employee, and not merely call off their classes.

"Classes will continue and they should just isolate that student. They should not panic because that would be unfair to the other students. What if there is another case the following week, should we suspend classes again? Where will it stop?" she said. With reports from Nikko Catherine Calligo, Julie M. Aurelio and Allison W. Lopez in Manila

Graft charges filed vs ex-governor, 4 others

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN yesterday filed graft charges against a former governor of Negros Occidental and four others for having allegedly overpriced medical and farm equipment worth P20 million from a supplier in Davao city without first securing clearance from the Bureau of Food and Drugs (now eight years ago).

In the information filed with the Sandiganbayan, the Ombudsman also noted that the equipment, which was bought now months before the term of Former Negros Occidental Governor Rafael Coscolluela expired in 2001, have remained unused with many of them still unassembled.

"The evidence sufficiently establishes probable cause that [the respondents] coordinated and cooperated with each other in carrying out an otherwise irregular and illegal direct purchase of medical and agricultural equipment from Jesmelyn Enterprises that granting the latter enormous benefits, advantage and preferences, despite a clear violation of existing Commission on Audit Circulars on Bidding," the Ombudsman said.

Included in the graft case were former provincial health officer Erasmo Mabaya, special projects management officer (SPMO) head Efren Sevandez, SPMO Officer III Jovita Arrogante and businessman Susano Chan of Gramalyn Enterprises.

Coscolluela now heads the Philippine Sugar Regulatory Authority. His previous were two Galing Pook awards and Outstand and Outstand Persons honors during his three terms as governor.

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by the People's Organization of Negros Occidental alleging that the respondents, deliberately, manipulate the provincial government's bidding and unreasonably overpriced the equipment bought from Chan's Gramalyn Enterprises in May 2001, over overpriced.

Sen Coscolluela denied he personally knew any of the owners of Gramalyn Enterprises while Chan could not be reached for comment.

However, graft investigation officer Alvin Calderon noted that Gramalyn Enterprises "has no license from the Bureau of Food and Drugs to operate as a Medical Device Distributor."

Calderon also noted that while the provincial government bought anesthesia machines from Gramalyn for P12 million each, similar machines cost only P320,000 from another company.

The investigation, also revealed that some of the equipment were delivered in Bacolod City and the bills of lading were prepared even before the respective awarding for the contract to Gramalyn Enterprises was signed on June 8, 2001.

The Ombudsman said: "This indicates a complete disregard and circumvention of rudimentary rules that the contract would be awarded to it despite the fact that there was as yet no proper determination of the choice of supplier."

Tsunami victims awarded lots after 20 years

By Cynthia D. Balana

FINALLY, AFTER 20 YEARS, THE government has awarded lots to the 406 families affected by the tsunami that struck Pagadian City in 1976, Vice President Noli de Castro said yesterday.

De Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), led the awarding of the Certificates of Entitlement for Lot Award or CELAs or Sunday to the beneficiaries of the Barangay Sinonoman Project in Pagadian City under Proclamation No. 769.

The proclamation provides a parcel of land for housing to beneficiaries/occupants.

De Castro was the guest of honor at a Pagadian City's 40th foundation anniversary, which was attended by around 2,000 people at the Pagadian City gymnasium.

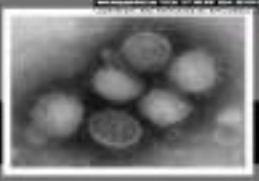
"Congratulations to those who received the CELA. This may be exchanged for the Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT). If you fulfill your responsibilities as beneficiaries of the program," De Castro said in Filipino.

The National Housing Authority, one of the housing agencies under the HUDCC which implements housing programs for homeless low-income families, administers the Barangay Sinonoman project through an open upgrading program. The project, completed on June 18, 2009, will benefit nearly 800 families.

Covering an area of 95,133 sq. m, the resettlement project was previously called Lot 5002, originally reserved for the relocation area of the 406 families affected by the tsunami.

Health Advisory

Influenza A(H1N1)



Sitwasyon ng Influenza A(H1N1) sa Pilipinas

Hunyo 22, 2009

Sa kasalukuyan, mayroon ng 445 na kumpirmadong kaso ng Influenza A(H1N1) ang naitala ng DOH. 84 % ay gumaling na at ang iba naman ay nagpapagaling pa.

Noong Hunyo 22, 2009, iniulat ni Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III na may namatay dahil sa malalang sakit sa puso at pulmonya. Dahil nagkaroon ng lagnat bago siya namatay, hiniling ng kanyang pamilya na suriin siya sa Influenza A(H1N1). Positibo ang naging resulta ng ginawang pagsusuri sa kanya.

Sa pagkakataong ito, ipinahahatid ng DOH na ang A(H1N1) ay isang mild form ng influenza illness kung saan gumagaling ang pasyente kung malakas ang resistensya. Karamihan ng kaso ay maaring gamutin sa bahay.

Ngunit tulad ng ibang impeksyon at seasonal flu strains, may mga pasyente na kailangan ng espesyal atensyon ng doktor. Agad kayong komunsulta sa doktor kapag may mga sumusunod na kondisyon :

1. **mabilis na paglala ng influenza-like illness o anumang uri ng trangkaso**
2. **mga pasyenteng nangangailangan ng matinding pangangalaga tulad ng sa ICU o Intensive Care Unit**
3. **malalang uri ng pulmonya**
4. **malalang malnutrisyon (severe malnutrition)**
5. **may COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) o malalang sakit sa baga**
6. **kumplikadong sakit sa puso na nangangailangan ng pagkalinga sa ospital**
7. **malalalang sakit sa bato na nangangailangan ng pagkalinga sa ospital**
8. **kumplikadong pagbubuntis**
9. **naggagamot laban sa kanser, organ transplant recipient at matagalang gumagamit ng steroids**
10. **mayroong HIV/AIDS**
11. **may diabetes na di mapababa ang blood sugar**

"We want to make it clear that high-risk groups, once they have the flu symptoms, should immediately go to their doctor. They should not wait for their symptoms to worsen because they are prone to many infections other than the novel virus such as our seasonal flu strains."

- Dr. Francisco T. Duque III
Secretary of Health

Proteksyunan ang sarili!

Alamin at sundin ang mga paalala ng Department of Health

Para sa karagdagang kaalaman, tumawag sa DOH Hotline (02) 711-1001 / 711-1002
o bumisita sa www.doh.gov.ph/h1n1

To-DOH Alerto Laban sa FLU!

Ferry's bow won't let San Fernando folk forget

By Marinar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN FERNANDO, BIKOL TOWN—IF ONLY ITS bow was not showing above the water, perhaps the people of Sibuyan could begin to forget.

But a year after the MV Princess of the Stars capsized in stormy seas, the forward part of the vessel still protruded grimly out of the sea and that is why villager Consejo Abao can't help but remember.

"We sense it real. It is bothering us," Abao said the decision, referring to the wreckage some 500-700 meters off the coast.

"It is time now (not showing, this would not have been an international issue," said Lt. Jonathon Galam, Philippine Coast Guard commander in Romblon.

Galam said the capsized vessel kept reminding people of that fateful night on June 20 last year when the Princess went down with the loss of more than 700 lives. Of the 862 people aboard, only a few dozen survived.

'Yes, sentermos are here'

The island basks again with life but the eerie sight of the bow has so affected some people in this town that they even claim to see sentermos (ghosts), or the spirits of the victims.

Resident Berly Bilao recalled one evening a few months ago when he set off to catch fish and "I saw groups of bright light in the waters," moving as if they were pushed fish.

THE UNFINISHED of the ill-fated MV Princess of the Stars still juts out of the Sibuyan Sea a year after the tragedy. Salvors survey the vessel's surface in preparation for the actual salvaging. MICHAEL QUEZ

He said the fishermen cheered, thinking they were "dilis," and rushed to throw in nets. But they caught nothing.

"Tinuruhan pala ilt (I noticed out it was ghosts)," he said.

"Yes there are sentermos until now," Ely Moreno, 65, said, recalling a time when her husband was in the sea saw human figures on boats. When he looked again, the figures were gone.

"He screamed in shock afraid the sentermos might cause his boat to capsize," she said.

A thanksgiving

Last weekend, after weeks of gloomy skies, the weather turned and islanders commemorated the first anniversary of the tragedy by praying for those who had died. They heard Mass, lit candles and offered flowers.

"It is also a (form of) thanksgiving because we have already recovered," San Fernando Mayor Nanette Danlagos said.

The town that suffered P156 million in damages in the wake of Typhoon "Frank" that sank the Princess has slowly gotten back on its feet.

"Sometimes, it was a blessing in disguise. What would have normal as if not for this (shipwreck)," Danlagos said, while still lamenting the deaths on the Princess.

She said people from other places had come to help. Aid from government and private groups poured in. School buildings and bridges damaged by the typhoon were rebuilt through donations. Medical missions also came.

The mayor hopes the sea will no longer remind people of the tragedy but be an emblem that could boost the town's tourism.

Prayers for the dead

Nestling elaborate was erected for Sunday's Mass; just makeshift tents to give shade and a linen-covered wooden table to serve as altar.

Some 300 attended the Mass on the shorelines where the ferry's bow would be seen. The sound of the waves accompanied the singing of a choir.

Those present wrote prayers for the victims on pieces of paper, which were then burned in a pot.

Edna Baloni, 62, wrote on her piece of paper: "Para sa kapanalig(mayroon ng taon na hulog ng sumunog sa Princess of the Stars (For the peace of all those who died on the Princess of the Stars)."

Criminal raps filed vs Sulpicio owner, ship captain

From page A-1

SEARCH IS SUSPENDED

Sevenderio's directive followed a year-long inquiry by a DOJ panel whose recommendation was approved by Justice Secretary Chief State Prosecutor Severino Gana.

The Princess of the Stars capsized on June 20, 2008, off Romblon's Sibuyan Island amid the raging fury of Typhoon "Frank." The ship carried 864 people aboard. Only 57 of them survived.

The tragedy was the worst since the MV Doña Paz, also owned by Sulpicio Lines, collided with the oil tanker MT Vector, leaving 4,000 people dead.

"(Edgar Go) is inarguably involved in making decisions on whether a vessel would be allowed to sail out of the Port of Manila," the DOJ panel said in its 49-page resolution of the complaint by the families of 23 victims and the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption.

"Considering the severe weather conditions prevailing at this time, prudence should have dictated (the) to cancel or discourage Voyage No. 2012 of the Princess of the Stars," the resolution said.

"There is no shred of doubt that (this man) was negligent in navigating along the vessel's regular route to Cebu when Typhoon Signal No. 3 had already been hoisted in Aklan and Romblon," the panel said.

"This is bolstered by the fact that Stars' was the only vessel that proceeded on its voyage and did not take shelter after Senga-Senga Bay in Romblon. His 9 was issued by Pagasa," it added.

No death certificate

Senior State Prosecutor Emilio Herrera, chair of the DOJ panel, said the department would file the case against Marinson despite reports that he was one of those who perished.

"There is no death certificate submitted to us. As far as the panel is concerned, he is still a respondent," Herrera said the lesson is.

On Sept. 10 2008, the National Bureau of Investigation identified victim identification team, composed of forensic and NBI experts, announced in Cebu City that Marinson's body was among the fatalities recovered.

The body was claimed by the family and hastily buried later in the day at the Parian Public Cemetery for fear of reprisal by relatives of the victims.

Dr. Romeo Bacolcol, head of the team in Cebu, reconfirmed on Monday that Marinson's body was identified on the basis of blood samples provided by his son and an affidavit close relative.

But Maria Cecile Calimayan, regional director of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) in Cebu City, said her office did not believe that Marinson was dead because the NBI team had refused to issue a document confirming his death.

Calimayan also said there were reasons that Marinson had been seen, but the information had not been validated.

SULPICIO Lines Inc. executive Edgar Go faces charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide. REUTERS/STR

Others ordered probed

The DOJ panel recommended that further investigation be conducted against Sulpicio captains Bienbly Pioneers and Benjamin Fajardo and Philippine Coast Guard PO1 Felix Bienbly Santos in connection with the ship sinking and sound mutiny case.

The complaints against other Sulpicio Lines executives—Go family members Jacque, Jennifer, Carlos, Victoriano, Dominador, Ricardo and Edward—were all dismissed "for insufficiency of evidence."

The panel also recommended that the Office of the Ombudsman investigate officers and employees of the Bureau of Customs, the Philippine Ports Authority and the Philippine Coast Guard for the entry into the country of the deadly pesticide endosulfan and its subsequent transshipment on the ill-fated vessel.

While the panel declared that there was insufficient evidence to indictate that endosulfan was loaded in the Princess of the Stars without a special permit, it believed that "something was amiss" in the handling of the dangerous cargo.

Franchise cancellation urged

Senen Lubo, 41, a survivor, warned that the Princess of the Stars tragedy might be repeated unless the government orders temporary grounding of 10 Sulpicio vessels previously.

"Once the franchise is revoked, Sulpicio Lines can no longer be responsible for any other tragedy. Otherwise, this will go on and on," said Lubo, who lost a cousin during the incident.

Sulpicio Lines has figured in at least three other major maritime mishaps over the past two decades, including the Doña Paz disaster. In all three incidents, however, the shipping company has been cleared of any criminal responsibility.

Dismay over identification

Also protesting DOJ chief Perfecto Acosta said that her office would file a motion to reinstate 50 bodies following complaints by relatives that the process of identification was unsatisfactory.

"The relatives feel that the victims cannot be identified through DNA," the ex-plained by a relief human interview.

Acosta said those were plans to invite local forensic experts who may be able to establish the identities of the victims through an examination of their bones.

"It is also possible that we can look at the personal effects inside the body bags that are recovered along with the victims," she added.

Acosta said relatives had complained they were not given access to the recovered bodies.

"Only representatives of the (SSS) and Sulpicio Lines were allowed inside the forensic parlors," she said.

Miramichapo Rep. Sadiua Rasora said that while the DOJ was now moving against Sulpicio Lines, much-needed reforms such as the Coast Guard bill, the Maritime Code, and the creation of the National Transportation Safety Board as well as other proposals of past Board of Marine Inquiries remained pending.

Were the lives of the seven aboard the Princess of the Stars tragedy died down, Congress has likewise forgotten those bills, which would institute reforms in the maritime industry to 1997, when the Bureau of Marine Inquiry investigated the sinking of the Princess of the Orient, it warned that if reforms were not effected, sea tragedies would continue to occur. Peripherally, it did happen again with the Princess of the Stars, "Marina said in some passages. With reports from JOCELYN L. Abao, EFC Cabucegan Jr. and Cathy Sarmiento

One year after, still no closure for grieving kin

From page A-1

been confirmed dead. Some 500 are still missing, it says.

Many are feared entombed in the hulk of the ferry.

Lucila Pasaio, who lost a brother and a sister, said she still grieved for them. The remains of their sister Sandra Salabsaran had been identified but her brother Wenefredo Salabsaran is among those on the list of missing.

Sandra and Wenefredo had been living in Manila and sailed for Cebu to attend the burial of their mother, Francia said.

"We received insurance from the ship owners Sulpicio Lines), P200,000 each, but money cannot replace a life and cannot provide the justice we are searching for," she said.

Alan's savings

Unlike some relatives of the other victims, the widow Elizabeth Bond, 31, did not join in filing a suit against Sulpicio Lines because she said she did not have money to pay for the legal services and nobody would take care of her children if she attended court hearings.

Elizabeth's husband, Alan, was a forklift operator on the Princess of the Stars. He survived the first sea tragedy several years ago—when the MV Princess of the Orient sank—by clinging to lumber and rafting for 19 hours. Fisherfolk rescued him three days later.

Alan was not lucky the second time. His body was found six days after the Princess of the Stars capsized.

When he was found, it least P54,000 in cash was tucked in his pants. The money was rescued as his wife.

"That was his life savings for the 11 years that he worked for the shipping company," Elizabeth said.

Different address

Elizabeth said she received P40,000 in insurance money and P120,000 from Sulpicio Lines as payment for her husband's 15 years of service, but she remains worried about the future of her 9-year-old daughter.

It was a different kind of sadness for others.

The other day, 36 area of remains were finally laid to rest in a mass burial held at the Cinco cemetery, erected by the Roman Catholic Church in Cebu City.

The mass burial of the unidentified remains followed a forgotten Mass.

The families of about 40 other passengers who remained missing also attended the Mass but mainly to talk to Maritime Academy (Marina) Administrator Elena Bautista. They wanted the government to exercise more monitoring for their loved ones.

They also wanted the DNA testing process to be speeded, according to the group's spokesperson, Rina Dela Cruz, mother of missing crewmember Robert Vincent.

She said her family was upset that they were not consulted before the mass burial. They were hoping that the unidentified remains would be matched to their DNA and compared with the DNA of the members of their families.

"That's why we are requesting for a repeat of the DNA testing," Dela Cruz said. "We have waited for a year already and it pains us a lot. Everyday we wait for nothing."

Closure needed

Bautista assured the 40 families that she and authorities would do their best to recover the remaining bodies inside the ship.

Reynaldo Bandoza, who headed the National Bureau of Investigation's disaster victim identification group, said it was not necessary for a repeat DNA because each of the remains buried yesterday already had a DNA profile.

He said he still "suspects" the bodies of drowned missing would be found.

"There should be a closure to this. We cannot do this forever," he said.

A YEAR after the tragedy, Leny Samuel still keeps to find the body of his niece, 2-year-old Jacquelyn Rhea Padua, who was a passenger in the MV Princess of the Stars that sank a year ago off Romblon's Sibuyan Island. MARY ANN

People's Choice
SUPER BRAND
GOLD 2008
PLATINUM 2007
GOLD 2006
GOLD 2004
PLATINUM 2004
GOLD 2003
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999
MASTER BRAND 2009
GOLD
PILOT SUPER MARKER
PILOT
FINE
SCA-B
SCA-F
Available in: black, red, blue brown, violet, green, orange, yellow
Philippine Exclusive Distributor
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
571 Q. Paredes St. Binondo, Manila
P.O. BOX 1681 ea. 340-4815 to 19 Fax: 241-3071
PILOT CORPORATION
Tokyo, Japan

Media go to cyberspace in face of clampdown

From page A1

working site.

Some news organizations have added Farsi-speaking staff members to their usual coverage teams and stepped up attention to websites such as Twitter for comment and images. Hard-of-demand media like—offer a wider view on the unfolding events.

Thomas Mathews, an associate professor at the Missouri School of Journalism, calls the social networks a "counterpoint" to traditional reporting rather than a competitor.

"It's democratic impulses," Mathews said. "People are going to find a way to be heard...now and moving ways. That civil function is pretty incredible."

Restrictions on foreign media

An information media crept curtains in Tehran—mostly Iranians who work as reporters, photographers and camera operators for international or mainstream news organizations.

But they are more being restricted to their offices, allowed only to conduct phone interviews or site official sources such as state broadcasters.

Iranian authorities have also tightened their squeeze on the Web.

Authorities have blocked websites such as Facebook, Twitter and many sites linked to opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi or his backers. Text messaging has been blocked on since last week, and cell phone service in Tehran is frequently down.

The Paris-based media watchdog group Reporters Without Borders on Sunday said that authorities had arrested 23 Iranian journalists and bloggers since post-election protests began a week ago.

The group claims reporters are "public enemy number one" for Iran's leadership. Among those accused of was the head of the Association of Iranian Journalists, the group said.

"It's becoming more and more problematic for journalists," said researcher Reneé Hervieux.

Steaming images

The restrictions on foreign media were imposed after one of the most shocking images of the crackdown: thousands of thousands of marchers pouring through Tehran last Monday to denounce alleged vote rigging in the June 12 election and in favor of Mousavi, who his supporters claim was the rightful winner over hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

An hour as an pro-reformer were killed by gunfire from a militia compound.

The bloodshed was caught by the world's media. One photo showed the body of one victim sprawled on the ground with blood spilling from a head wound.

But the ban on eyewitness reporting makes it difficult to confirm reports of casualties.

The Tehran-based opposition journal on YouTube and Facebook following street battles on Saturday in Tehran, showed a young woman with blood pouring from her nose and mouth as people—shouting in Farsi—frantically tried to help her.

The YouTube video describes the location to contain Tehran and said the woman, identified only as "Neda," had been fatally shot.

The images began to appear on media around the world, including at protests by Iranian-Americans in Los Angeles.

Difficult to verify

The Associated Press (AP) noted the omnipresence of the videos but could not independently verify the content, to be on tour or the date it was shot.

The AP conducted phone interviews and exchanged e-mails with its reporters who witnessed Saturday's clashes with police and militia, but none of those interviewed had witnessed the woman shown on the websites.

"Getting out the accurate unedited story is the goal," said John Daniszewski, AP senior managing editor.

"The restrictions now imposed on reporters in the country make it more difficult but we are succeeding nevertheless. We rely on correspondents in Iran and those outside the country to sift find from rumor for the most reliable dispatches possible."

At CNN, more than 2,000 reports from "citizen journalists" related to Iran have been received since the day after the election, and more than 90 "fully verified" videos and photos have been aired, according to the network's spokesperson Digby Pritchard.

CNN also has reported on content cached by Twitter and other social networking sites, but "always pausing it to confirm for viewers," he said.

"It is important that the audience has a clear understanding of not only that (vetting) process, but also the fact that in some cases we are not able to fully verify content from those third-party sites," Pritchard said.

"Especially in a media climate like the we have in Iran, it is crucial that all elements of any reporting are placed in full context," he added.

'Terrible for journalists'

The AP senior ex Twitter and other sites and has reported some posted comments on known events. But a campaign was initiated by outgovernment complainant for Twitter users outside Iran to route their location as the Tehran time—knowing that it would increase their global exposure.

"That's great for activists, but it's terrible for journalists," said Jere Sreenivasan, dean of student affairs and professor at Columbia Journalism School in New York. "You've been following these people who you thought were in Iran and they're not."

Last week, the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) said it was using two extra satellites to broadcast its Farsi-language service in way to bypass jamming by Iranian authorities. The Voice of America site has added new satellite paths to counter Iranian blocks.

Expulsions, suspensions

On Sunday the BBC said its Tehran correspondent, Jon Leyne, had been ordered to leave the country. The Paris news agency said Iranian officials had accused Leyne of "disseminating falsehood news and reports, ignoring neutrality in news, supporting rioters and trampling the holy Islamic values."

Bahmanpour's relatives, who were media and were held for three days protesters, were released after a few hours.

Bahmanpour heads the elections Assembly of Experts, which can remove the supreme leader, the country's most powerful figure. He has criticized the Guardian Council.

Bahmanpour said his family members were arrested in connection to Ahmadinejad. And the 75-year-old journalist was conspicuously absent on Friday from an address by the country's supreme leader calling for national unity and siding with the president.

The latest speculation that Bahmanpour, who has made no public comment since the election, may be working behind the scenes and boosting Mousavi.

Ahmadinejad appeared to be courting his own political support. That television showed him meeting with students at the presidential palace and telling them the election had restored national pride lost by the regime. AP

IN THIS photograph posted on the Internet, two Iranian women take cover from a cloud of either tear gas or smoke at Saturday's anti-government protests in Tehran. AP

ANTI-FASHISM woman, living in Berlin, Germany, weeps during a protest against the results of the presidential election in Iran and post-election violence on Sunday. AP

Iran military threatens to crush demos; protest leaders defiant

From page A1

Opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi and a popular reformist former president, however, are boldly defying the country's supreme leader by supporting continued protests of the June 12 presidential election. Iran is now unclear on Monday whether protesters would dare to come on massive demonstrations after a bloody crackdown.

"The country belongs to you ... preventing lies and deceit is your responsibility," Mousavi, who claims hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won twelve million through fraud, said in a statement on his website.

Mousavi's statement flies in the face of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who holds ultimate power in Iran and who last week said the stunned landslide victory of Ahmadinejad was valid.

Rafsanjani blasted. Former President Mohammad Khatami said in a statement that "protest is a civil movement" and that "silencing protesters through fraud, cuts in a statement on his website.

Mousavi's statement flies in the face of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who holds ultimate power in Iran and who last week said the stunned landslide victory of Ahmadinejad was valid.

Rafsanjani blasted. Former President Mohammad Khatami said in a statement that "protest is a civil movement" and that "silencing protesters through fraud, cuts in a statement on his website.

Mousavi's statement flies in the face of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who holds ultimate power in Iran and who last week said the stunned landslide victory of Ahmadinejad was valid.

Scrambling for a strategy

Aside from the bold words, however, the opposition on Monday appeared to be scrambling for a strategy to continue the mass outcry of the protests that have stunned world attention without paving its supporters to peril.

At least 10 people were killed in Saturday's clashes between demonstrators and police and the Basij militia. Police on Monday said that 457 people were arrested on that day alone, without saying how many have been arrested throughout the week of turmoil.

Official figures say 17 people have died in the week of unrest. But witness images posted online—including gruesome video purporting to show the fatal shooting of a teenage girl—indicate the Iran casualty toll may be higher in the clashes with police and the feared Basij militia.

Mousavi's website on Monday called for supporters to turn on their car lights in the late afternoon as a sign of protest—a somewhat muted response to Ahmadinejad's call for the streets' mass gatherings.

Poll irregularities found

Also on Monday, the Guardian Council, which agreed last week to investigate some voting complaints, said irregularities were found in 50 constituencies, but added this had no effect on Ahmadinejad's win.

Council spokesperson Abbas Ali Kadkhodaei was quoted on the state TV website as saying that the probe showed more votes were cast in Iran's constituencies than there were registered voters, but that "has no effect on the result of the election."

The acknowledgment of the irregularities was unlikely to mollify the opposition, who allege massive and systematic fraud.

Khatami said "taking complaints to bodies that are supposed to protect people's rights, but are themselves subject to criticism, is not a solution"—referring to powerful the Council of collusion in vote fraud.

Journalists for foreign media have been put under tight restrictions and assessing the extent of the protests and violence is difficult.

The government has intensified a crackdown on independent media—expelling a BBC correspondent, suspending the Italian-based network Rai Arabiya and detaining at least two local journalists for Al magazines.

English-language state television said an exile group known as the People's Mujahedeen had a hand in the street violence and broadcast what it said were confessions of British-educated agents in an indication the government was ready to crack down even harder.

Foreign meddling

Iran's foreign ministry on Monday linked out at foreign media and Western governments, with ministry spokesperson Hasan Qashqavi accusing them of "a covert sensitivity that threatens to bring to the Third World."

"Meddling by Western powers and international media is unacceptable," Qashqavi said in a press conference thrown on state TV, taking particular aim at French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

"How can a Western president, like the French president, ask for conditions of Iranian elections remain?" Qashqavi said. "I regret such comments."

Mousavi, in statements posted on Sunday, warned supporters of danger ahead, and said he would stand by the protesters "in all times."

But he said he would "never allow anybody's life to be endangered because of my actions" and called for pursuing legal claims through an independent board.

The former prime minister, a longtime loyalist of the Islamic establishment who was close to Basij and military "our brothers" said "protesters of war provocation and regime."

Mousavi may be trying to reinforce his followers' demands before they pose a more radical threat to Iran's system of theocracy and democracy constructed by Shiite clerics who have ultimate authority.

His distancing of current within the system would be the highest it has has leaders among those circles.

Rift among ayatollahs

As the clerical sign yet of a schism among the ayatollahs, state media announced the arrests on Sunday of relatives of former President Hashemi Rafsanjani including his daughter Faezeh, a 48-year-old reformist politician vilified by hardliners for her open support of Mousavi.

Rafsanjani's relatives, who were media and were held for three days protesters, were released after a few hours.

Rafsanjani heads the elections Assembly of Experts, which can remove the supreme leader, the country's most powerful figure. He has criticized the Guardian Council.

Rafsanjani said his family members were arrested in connection to Ahmadinejad. And the 75-year-old journalist was conspicuously absent on Friday from an address by the country's supreme leader calling for national unity and siding with the president.

The latest speculation that Rafsanjani, who has made no public comment since the election, may be working behind the scenes and boosting Mousavi.

Ahmadinejad appeared to be courting his own political support. That television showed him meeting with students at the presidential palace and telling them the election had restored national pride lost by the regime. AP

'Neda' death video is Internet symbol of Iran demos

PARIS—A VIDEO OF A BLOODstained young woman, which is being promoted as a woman killed in the Tehran protests, has been shown around the world and has become an Internet symbol of the demonstrations.

The video showing blood pouring from the mouth and nose of the young woman was put online on Saturday and has since been viewed hundreds of thousands of times around the world.

International media have taken grab pictures from the film.

The film shows a woman identified by protesters after she is hit by a shot on a Tehran street while protesting with her father and thousands of others against the disputed election victory of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Photos of the young woman have been used during demonstrations around the world, from Istanbul to Los Angeles.

Neither the identity nor the fate of the young woman have been independently confirmed.

Foreign media have been banned from covering demonstrations and other public events and rely on witnesses accounts for their reports.

Iran has accused Western countries of online interference and seeking to manipulate the protests. AFP

IRANIAN-AMERICAN women in Los Angeles, California, hold signs to show the world they identify with a girl known as "Neda," believed to be a teenager who was shot dead at a protest in Tehran. AP

A SCREEN grab taken on June 21, 2009, from a video posted on YouTube allegedly shows Iranians seen trying to help a wounded woman named "Neda" who was shot in the chest during Saturday's protests in Tehran. AFP/YOUTUBE

SBP
Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas, Inc.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL COMMUNITY

The Board of Trustees of Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas, Inc. (SBP) wish to express their gratitude to all of you who have given their support and contributed to the success of the numerous programs which the SBP has put in place to develop Philippine basketball. In the two (2) years since its inception, SBP's influence, reach and leadership in Philippine basketball have been significant - particularly when viewed from the context of the four (4) decades of existence of its predecessor association, the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP).

Referees Programs

1. Implemented the comprehensive National Referees Development Program (NRDP) which has already benefitted more than four hundred (400) arbiters in its first year.
2. Regularly sends Filipino referees to International Referees' Clinics so that there are now eleven (11) Filipino FIBA-licensed International Referees compared with only four (4) when the SBP took over from the BAP, one of whom will officiate in the forthcoming world championships in Men's in New Zealand.
3. Organized and fully-subsidized the series of elite referees' clinics conducted by Mr. Alan Richardson, FIBA International Instructor and Ecobiagua Supervisor for Referees.
4. Created an Elite Referees Pool whose members are now being used by SBP-member leagues.

Coaches Programs

The SBP has implemented the National Coaches Accreditation and Licensing Program (NCALP) which already completed its first task of gathering and identifying over eight hundred (800) coaches nationwide. Numerous coaching clinics are now being held to standardize our coaching techniques in line with our National Team Program.

Youth and Grassroots Programs

1. Stages various National Championships for different age groups and gender categories including the Philippine Champion's League where over two hundred (200) universities and colleges participated and the forthcoming National Junior Championships for boys and girls.
2. Founded the National Basketball Training Center (NBTC), the elite basketball school for 16 and under boys and girls.
3. Created the SBP 3's, inspired by FIBA's 3 on 3 basketball program, to form competitive teams for the Asian Indoor Games, Asian Beach Games, Asian Youth Games and the Youth Olympics.

National Teams

The SBP maintains a vibrant and aggressive national team program for all age and gender categories. All National Teams are well-funded through the support of SBP sponsors and donors.

1. The SBP has a long-term program for our young Men's National Team with the objective of qualifying for the London Olympics in 2012, and improving our currently low standing in the FIBA world rankings resulting from long years of neglect. To help realize these goals, a Serbian coach, Mr. Rajko Toroman, has been engaged and a comprehensive training program and calendar has been put together which includes so far, tournaments and training camps in Serbia, the United States, Indonesia and Japan.
2. The Philippine National Teams have achieved significant results in the last year by virtue of the SBP programs now in place:
   a) 7th place, FIBA Asia Championships for Junior Men in 2008
   b) 2nd place, 1st Asian Beach Games in Bali 2008
   c) 2nd place, Women's, FIBA Asia Championships for Junior Women in 2008
   d) Champion, 1st China Asian-CBO International Tournament in 2008
   e) 5th place, FIBA Asia Champion's Cup 2009
   f) Champion, SEABA 2009 - Qualifier for FIBA Asia Men's Championships in Tianjin, China
3. The SBP National Team Competition's calendar for 2009 has never been more jam-packed with our teams qualifying for the FIBA Asia Championship for Women (16 and under), the FIBA Asia Championships for Junior Men and Women, the FIBA Asia Championships for Men, the Asian Youth Games and the Asian Indoor Games (Vietnam).

Membership Program

To date, five (5) new active members have been added to the roster of SBP membership bringing the total number to twenty-four (24). Other applications are now being reviewed by the Nomination and Membership Committee for active status. In addition, ten (10) new associate members have been added with provision for future consideration as regular active members. Total membership (active and associate) now stands at forty (40).

WHY DO THE ATTACKS ON SBP CONTINUE?

Despite these achievements, it saddens us to note that there are still those who continue to question the legitimacy of the SBP and its current leadership. These individuals, who are still aligned with the BAP, have chosen to disregard the "Tokyo Communique" dated 25th August 2008, which led to the formation of the SBP as the country's sole and unified governing body for basketball. They also allege that the SBP has failed to comply with the subsequent "Bangkok Agreement" dated 9th February 2007, which elaborated further the terms of the Tokyo Communique. It is apparent that the BAP continues to raise issues and complaints against SBP and its present leadership to the detriment of achieving unity in Philippine Basketball. It is also obvious now that BAP's interpretation of unity means unity on its own terms.

Last May 28, 2009, the SBP received a letter from Mr. Patrick Baumann, FIBA Secretary General, advising the SBP of the creation of a "Special Commission for the Philippines". The formation of this Special Commission was precipitated by "various correspondences and continuous complaints addressed to the FIBA Secretariat over the past months on the matter related to the institutional legitimacy of the Philippine Basketball Federation and its current leadership".

WHAT IS THE SBP POSITION?

The SBP has decided that it will not submit to the jurisdiction of this Special Commission for the following reasons:

1. Mr. Baumann in his letter dated last year (May 13, 2008) and sent to the SBP clearly and categorically stated that:
   (i) FIBA is fully supporting the SBP and its President Manuel V. Pangilinan and its Board of Trustees;
   (ii) FIBA will disregard any communication coming from the former BAP "as it has no rights with FIBA"; and
   (iii) FIBA is dismissing Mr. Ibrahim Ibn with immediate effect from his membership in the FIBA Youth Commission, citing his "continuous actions to disrupt the proper functioning of the SBP" as "unacceptable".
2. The Philippine Court of Appeals has already affirmed SBP's compliance with the Bangkok Agreement and the Tokyo Communique. The Court's decision confirmed the membership validation process undertaken by the SBP and also sustained the validity of the June 12, 2008 SBP National Congress and the regular election of SBP's trustees and officers held at that meeting.
3. The Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) and the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) have both recognized the SBP and have effectively and correctly accorded its leadership with full rights as the lawful governing body of basketball in the Philippines.
4. The basis on which the Special Commission was formed rests on complaints and allegations, as mentioned in the Baumann letter of May 28, 2009, made by the BAP that are unverified and biased. That is why the Baumann letter is simply inconsquential/trivial - giving apparent credence to "various correspondences and continuous complaints" without verifying their veracity. Instead of removing the squeaky and rusty wheels - as Baumann indicated he would in his letter last year to SBP - he has now lubricated them with oil.

WHAT NEXT?

We should emphasize that it was the BAP which initiated the judicial action challenging the legitimacy of the June 12, 2008 SBP National Congress and elections. We regard this legal step by the BAP to be significant because it clearly demonstrates its intention and preference to have the matter decided by our Philippine judicial system - and not by any other party, tribunal or commission - foreign or local. Having lost in a forum that they themselves chose, BAP is now shopping for another forum that may be sympathetic to it.

Accordingly, the SBP has to put on record and placed FIBA on notice that it shall not participate in any proceedings which this Special Commission may undertake, unless and until it has become unequivocally clear to SBP what its mandate, jurisdiction and scope of authority really are. More importantly, the BAP legal challenge, after having been rejected by our Court of Appeals, has been elevated by it to our Supreme Court, where it is now under consideration. In that light, the SBP has firmly taken the position that whilst this domestic issue is under judicial review, it should not submit itself to any other legal jurisdiction until the matter has been finally resolved by our legal system. Let Philippine law take its course, let us respect our Courts and not incur their contempt otherwise.

We, the members of the SBP call upon all legitimate stakeholders of Philippine Basketball to cease from individual and collective voices and take a unified stand condemning the disruptive actions of the BAP, and protect FIBA's unique rarified institution into what must be a purely domestic matter requiring domestic resolution.

Make yourself be heard by sending your comments through sbp.com.ph.

Mabuhay ang Philippine Basketball!

Manuel V. Pangilinan
President

ISSN 0116-2342 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. XXXI, No. 189

OPINION

Have gang, will travel

EDITORIAL

BY THE TIME PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO returns from her swing through Russia, South Korea, Japan and Brunei, she will have made 52 trips to 38 countries in eight years and spent billions of pesos in taxpayers' money. There can be no doubt that she is the most widely traveled president in Philippine history. If someone would only bother to authenticate it, she could very well bid for the title of the most peripatetic head of state in the world.

Here's a list of the countries she has visited: United States, 18 trips; China, 7; Japan, 7; Malaysia, 6; Brunei, 4; United Kingdom, 3; South Korea, 3; Thailand, 3; Hong Kong, 3; Mexico, 2; Italy 2; Bahrain, 2; Dubai, 2; and 1 each: Cambodia, Singapore, Indonesia, Kuwait, France, Chile, Vatican City, Saudi Arabia, Macau, New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland, Dubai, Peru, Qatar, Egypt, Syria, Russia and Brunei.

The President's entourage on these trips has been almost inevitably large—from about 30 to 102 (the 2007 trip to France, Spain and the United Kingdom). There is nothing to justify the sheer size of such huge delegations on presidential trips. The Philippines is not a world power, the trips seem not of global importance and the Philippine president is just a dot in geopolitics, unlike the US president. The Philippines is not a rich country, unlike the United States.

A comprehensive estimate has not yet been made of the public funds spent on the President's travels, but judging from the frequency and length of the trips, the guest discourses traveled, the people included in her entourage, the airplanes chartered to fly them and the perks hotels where they were billeted, the total could easily run into billions of pesos.

Just to give the readers an idea of the money spent on these extravagant trips: Sen. Pimentel Lacson said about P800 million were spent on foreign travel in 2008. A news research report based on the Commission on Audit's report on the Office of the President said in December 2007 that P482 million, or nearly a fifth of the OP expenditures, was spent on travel expenses in 2006. It was more than double the P218 million spent for travel expenses of the Office of the President in 2005.

In January 2008, Ms Arroyo flew to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, with as Bb. member delegation composed of Cabinet officials, legislators and local officials. Attending the Davos forum is not cheap. To give you an idea: The world's largest businesses pay 42,500 Swiss francs (26,500 euros or $36,700 or P1.6 million) apiece for annual membership and an extra 11,000 euros (P660,440) per person to attend the meeting. A two-room hotel in Davos costs $300 a night.

Ms Arroyo has not allowed public opinion to get in the way of her proclivity for going on extravagant foreign travels. Last year, for instance, she continued on her trip to the United States even after Typhoon "Frank" battered Central Philippines, leaving thousands of people homeless, destroying millions of pesos in public works, crops and private property, and sinking the MV Princess of the Stars, with a loss of 807 lives. She is supposed to be the "number one of the nation," but instead of returning home immediately to look after the needs of the typhoon victims and to commiserate with the survivors, she and her entourage indulged all to foreign shores. She was like Nero who fiddled while Rome burned.

An observer of these presidential trips gets the impression of a chief executive who wants to squeeze the greatest personal, material and financial benefit from the perks of the office, and the ongoing public be damned! Especially now that she is scheduled to bow out of Malacañang (actually, we don't know if she will really leave the seat of power in 2010), she can be expected to go to more foreign trips paid for by taxpayers' money up to perhaps April 2010.

It is well that the Senate committee on finance will conduct an inquiry into Ms Arroyo's foreign trips. The unsuspecting public will then get an idea of how profligate she has been with their money. Or how insensitive she has been to the suffering of the people whose urgent needs could have been ministered to with the billions of pesos that were spent on foreign junkets. Let the profligacy of Ms Arroyo be disclosed, and then watch the people weep and gnash their teeth.

Publisher Isaac Rufino
Editor-in-Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Managing Editor Joey Nic. D. Mendoza
Assistant Editor Abigail L. Gamboa
Associate Editor for Special Projects Nonnie A. Gonzalez
Opinion Editor Jomar F. Sucro
Deputy Editor Jerome T. Barrameda Jr. • Chief Copy Desk Operations Noel B. Pabalan
Chief, News Desk Noel Rudolf G. Alcantara
National Editor Pierangelo R. Bumanlag Jr.
Senior Desk Editor Jane V. Enriquez Jr.
Editorial Consultants Armando Doronila
Chief Photographer Rene U. Lapuente
Art & Design Director Lisett V. Velasco

Board Chairman Hermie E. Pineda
President Alexander Pineda-Rivas Jr.
Senior Vice President for Editorial Marketing Nonnie E. Gonzalez
Vice President for Advertising Frank R. Davila
Chief Operations Officer Glaiza Sonia B. Yap

Playing our song?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"THEY JUST LIE THERE / AND THEY DIE there," Nat King Cole crooned that line in the 1950 song "Mona Lisa" into Senator's Hall of Fame. Rest. And late demolition crews continued to a term, paralyzed Office of the Ombudsman.

Despite those policies, and largest ethnic individuals, are ambitious," confirms the Philippine Human Development Report 2009. "[They] structure human interactions, typically without fundamental change a needed, but has not occurred."

PHDR notices the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB) and other institutions, politics and their impact on human development. That lamentable study has been published since 1990. The United Nations Development Programme and New Zealand co-sponsor the latest edition.

The consolation patterns cost OMB an Sandoval's condemnation of 1999, independent of the executive, like official defended rights of citizens. Condemnation and other measures adopted of this impression.

How do we compare? Date a 12-year past sal, the OMB took cognizance of 9,626 criminal cases. Almost 56 percent are remedied. PHDR found. So are 61 percent of 10,003 administrative cases.

The Philippines ranked Anwar-ul-Haq chairman of OMB instituted legal reforms. Term in dismissal just moved. OMB's conviction rate increased 300 percent," she declared in her 2008 State of the Nation Address.

Chief Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo for that, says PHDR. From 2002 to 2006, Marcelo instituted reforms that "quintuplicated."

After Marcelo's resignation due to "ill health," Ms Arroyo named the chief president for legal counsel—and the Vice Gentleman's chief-of-staff—Merceditas Gutierrez. Gutierrez, conviction rates slumped "dramatically to 14.4 percent by the first semester of 2008," PHDR noted. Rates dipped to as low as 8 percent in March, then 5 percent in May. It was zero for June, when Ms Arroyo's speechwriter Gutierrez was the OMB boss.

Did the presidential wordsmith's leave of the OMB's rapid erosion? If not, they should have been cautioned for incompetence. If their terror then unlicensed for incompetence. If their terror then they stitched a lie into the State. "But, you, it a living offense. Did the Presidential know—and conceal?

Three months after Ms Arroyo's fiesta, the headquarters disposed of 349 cases. Only 25 resulted in conviction—a measly 7 percent. How will she report his liability once it moved in over months's time? Abrogate.

Led by Senate Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, 11 civil society leaders, meanwhile, sought to impeach Gutierrez. They cited high profile cases, from collusion in bids for World Bank road construction loans to the "mega-pork" scandal.

Controversy over House Resolution 1109 on Charter change looks ominous for that. But how does Reforms & Malacañang stamp pad, the House of Representatives, has only this conclusion: will then you last months Tuesday of the Lourdes in a grey "house roll" at those whose past were never decided to result.

"Let her in," snapped the Vice Gentleman. "We were not chairmen merely subordinates. But for her dedication."

And the did just that.

"But because and loan were further undermined by the OMB's action—or inaction—on high-profile cases," PHDR notes. "There is chalk the $2 billion fund theft of automotive executive Gutierrez, conviction rates slumped "dramatically to 14.4 percent by the first semester of 2008," PHDR noted. Rates dipped to as low as 8 percent in March, then 5 percent in May. It was zero for June, when Ms Arroyo's speechwriter Gutierrez was the OMB boss.

Did the presidential wordsmith's leave of the OMB's rapid erosion? If not, they should have been cautioned for incompetence. If their terror then they stitched a lie into the State. "But, you, it a living offense. Did the Presidential know—and conceal?

There

Irrational fear of Con-ass

BILL SPEAKER PROSPERO NOGRALES AND his allies attempt to limit a constituent assembly to Congress in Cha-cha-ing joint session on July 27 to March to the President? Some of the Nation Address? Finally I don't think Nograles would be so dumb as to attempt this. He'll have on his hands a stillbirth of perhaps half the assembly, as there's already public noise and I wrote more than the full glare of the TV cameras. The entire country will be tuned in on this event, as millionth of the outside world thought the Philippines was a mosquito-infested, flood-prone island off the coast to about Con-ass. It matters not to bring unacceptable relief by this irrational fear of Con-ass. Nothing is worse than allowing this to happen. What we need is to mobilize strong public opinion to make sure that we have politicians not confident that the manipulate results.

Further I wrote that from talks with friends in the House, I got the impression of overwhelming fear that it's going to happen even though many of them are not sold on having Cha-cha at this time. But with What Ifs? Like Eddie Ilagan said well, stop thinking unless expecting up. I'm worried about it myself and I'm not sold on it. Ilagan was spotted as saying that Cha-Cha via a Senate-less Con-ass is "too late, too partisan, too unpopular and too unconstitutional." In his Senate speech, Senator Edgardo Manuel Con-ass to a baby "born with a fatal congenital affliction...an attempt at rule pummeled by the Senate which defies the Constitution." Besides, various House bloc are mobilizing against it. Into the fix mix, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile signing that 6/10ths to stage before the cut-off, which includes Chair Jun Pimentel and GMA's former friends Nicolas Perlas.

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

Let's opine that she doesn't have to do so since the amended Constitution. Besides, she does not have to remain in office after their 5th State certificate of candidacy. What critics say he supported plan moves is that the constitutional prohibition against reelection of a president is precisely intended to prevent the incumbent from abusing his powers to effect a term extension for a campaign, as this would give him or her an unfair advantage.

I can see this point. In the United States, the president can run for reelection while no one fearing that he would abuse the resources of his office, mainly because of the strength of public opinion and the safeguards against electoral overspending. Note that a candidate, Barack Obama, who raised the biggest campaign funds in US history, largely from small donations, had to stand carefully over accusations of overspending. But the issue is not here, it is in the Philippines.

I agree with Mike that the amended Omnibus Election Code does not call outright for a presidency resignation when he or she seeks another office. 10/20 counts to positions he/she in the race for prime minister in case there's a shift to a parliamentary form of government, she is legally allowed to do so. But after nine years of being at the top, I think GMA would be thrilled by 2010, and like any presidents, she would rather just retire from politics, especially her age. I agree with Mike that the senate law running to remain in office with her desire to protect herself against lawsuits after June 30, 10/10, since the terms would be separate time to replace with. But she also knows it's true. As for the lawsuits, she can always get the best lawyers to defend her. After all, many cases against her were won in the court of public opinion, but these aren't issued in court. Moreover, if enough friends are convinced only after this award, GMA could improve on that term order not impaired justice system. And look at poverty-stricken Imelda Marcos dwelling around, though weighed down by a diamond ring so big, or her fingernail.

My radio partner, National Commission for Culture and the Arts executive director Cecile Guidote Alvarez, will be in control of the City of Manila when the Council appears. Antonio Villegas stood today at 4 p.m. to be handed out to Mayor Alfredo Lim. The Congress should to cede, the highest congress recognizes his outstanding leadership in the field of arts and culture. Cecile's work in the field has given a long string of deserved laurels for this brilliant organizer, whom counted as the youngest National Museum director at age 28 remains unmatched. She began to exert that under her aegis, the ICCA in the last five years has demonstrated opportunities in the arts and culture field for to classroom peoples and the poor and marginalized through its 'cultural centers' giving, 'what lodge-ins' for the arts in the barrios' public schools and other underprivileged areas as it provides them with training opportunities in dance, drama and the like.

Reminder: This Friday, June 26, the 39th anniversary of the death of lit. Jaimundo Bautista, the charismatic founder of Open Int., a world-wide movement, will be commemorated. In Jaimundo, who preached that neutralization can be achieved by those who practice the principles of the world, died in Basle 34 years ago. Today the "WOL" as his devout followers call it, is found in more than 80 countries. Among Friday's activities will be a Mass at 6 p.m. celebrated at the Manila Cathedral in his memory. To be officiated by Jaimundo Cardinal Bondes. The public is cordially invited.

At 9 a.m. today the officers of the newly-organized International Association of Constitutional Law, 50 branch, led by IBLaw Dean Merlin Magallona, will take their oath before Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

A frenzy of construction at the Circle

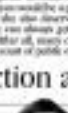
GORDON WHO SAVED LIFE "EARTH author" Gloria Alcaraz was running around with a camera. "I'm shooting at the world's fairs," she declared, and I could verify pictures for doing so. Outside Cubao her advocacies (see seriously), and some more so than that for the environment. And as for her love in for "learning at the Circle" what has been described as the "desecration" of the Quezon Memorial Circle to comedy within season —not imagination.

The latest administration of the Circle which took over from the board headed by Charito Planas has barely been in a frenzy of construction, building a concrete fence around the area, and razing big trees and tearing up the street to make way for a new underpass. Gloria asked, "I could see what's happening, but what's it going up for?" "Learning and fun," was her answer. "Learning and fun?" some fun been described as the "desecration" of the Quezon Memorial Circle to comedy within season —not imagination.

The latest administration of the Circle which took over from the board headed by Charito Planas has barely been in a frenzy of construction, building a concrete fence around the area, and razing big trees and tearing up the street to make way for a new underpass. Gloria asked, "I could see what's happening, but what's it going up for?" "Learning and fun," was her answer. "Learning and fun?" some fun been described as the "desecration" of the Quezon Memorial Circle to comedy within season —not imagination.

At Large

Ryan Jimenez-Dayao



At best, the situation at the time was a complete mess. But it was a unique opportunity for keeping the Circle a safe, well-lit, green and hospitable public space where families could go for a little breather and engage in wholesome activities, like dancing and exercising and with kind of activity I have described before.

I don't know, and neither does Gloria Alcaraz, what the new administration of the Circle plans for the park area, but judging from the feverish pace of construction and the number of trees already cut down, it's not difficult to see that serving this spirit of nature is a city besieged by urban concrete blight and unrelenting development doesn't seem to be part of their blueprint.

Such a situation, that the Circle is being provided the people of Quezon City a respite from the stresses of urban life. The public doesn't need any more buildings or man-made structures, as there are many of those all around. What is public is the open space, the trees, the grass, the flowers, the birds and animals that live in the middle of the city? That is a reality, a precious resource, that needs to be preserved, not destroyed.

MORE people than ever are going hungry every day, with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reporting that 1.02 billion people are going hungry today, an increase of 100 million over the figure last year.

The most recent increase in hunger is not the consequence of poor global harvests, said the FAO, but is caused by the world economic crisis that has resulted in lower incomes and increased unemployment, paving the way for a "silent hunger tsunami" to hit the poorest.

"A dangerous mix of the global economic downturn combined with stubbornly high food prices in many countries has pushed many more people than ever into chronic hunger and poverty," said FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf. "The silent hunger crisis—affecting one-sixth of all of humanity—poses a serious risk for world peace and security," he added. "If we want to avoid social unrest, we have to tackle the root causes of hunger in the world and tackle the economic crisis."

THE NEWS of an increase in world hunger to all the more distressing news upon release of figures following years of progress in eradicating the scourge of global hunger. The FAO said good progress was made in reducing chronic hunger in the developing countries in the past 15 years, but hunger has been rising slowly but steadily in the past decade. Last year, though, the FAO reduced its estimate of hungry people by around 40 million, "a historic change in the historic trend of global hunger," That trend now, though, now must scale be by the global economic crisis.

This year, mainly due to the shocks of the economic crisis combined with others high agricultural prices, the number of hungry people is expected to grow onward by about 11 percent, FAO projects, drawing on analysis by the US Department of Agriculture.

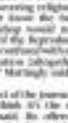
Almost all of the world's undernourished live in developing countries. In Asia and the Pacific, an estimated 642 million people are suffering from chronic hunger; in Sub-Saharan Africa, 265 million; in Latin America and the Caribbean, 53 million; in the Near East and North Africa, 42 million; and in the developed countries, 15 million in total.

The economic crisis also comes on the heels of the food and fuel crisis of 2006-08. While food prices have fallen from their peaks last year, most remain, domestic prices in developing countries came down more slowly. They remained on average 24 percent higher in real terms in the end of 2008 than two years earlier, FAO economists, who spend up to 60 percent of their income on food, said, this means a strong reduction in their effective purchasing power.

Pontius Pilate as editor

Newsstand

Fabie Nery



(EDITOR'S ARE (HOST) MULDED IN the Philippine Star, or rather I do not recall the distinguished Mr. Pontius Pilate ever mentioned in any news report about Judaism in the Philippines, before September 11 or even after it. Question: Is "missing Eli" Bartlet, governor of Pampanga, a member of the Jewish faith? Or is he just one of the millions driving up the multi-trillion-dollar national debt—even the perception that he is temporarily suspended from the Catholic priesthood. Question: Is brother Mike Velarde's creation El Shaddai Movement a Catholic or Jewish organization?

These and similar questions would be excited subject to a wonderful website I've been reading the last several years, if it were not owned by a Philippine Star columnist. It is the Religion Clause, GetReligion (or, naturally enough, getreligion), is a website dedicated to tracking the "ghosts" of religion in news stories. Often this means taking news organizations to task for inaccurate reporting on religious topics, but sometimes the stories pushing for greater coverage of the role religion plays the news.

The site gets its name from something CBS producer Andrew Heyward said in 2005 after the press failed to find substantive news and "the press" had to "fall back on religion." But it could also be the phrase finds additional resonance in the oldest formulation of "finding" or "discovering" religion.

GetReligion is a group blog, and when a group is a group, it's usually a group of four. Sometimes, it must be to be more popularly known, a GetReligion's daily-averaging angel. This may be familiar to some of us in the other hemisphere readers would extend "the Religion" column of the Inquirer Howard Bowen Jones.

In Manila the other week, Mattingly spoke to a roundtable of journalists interested in the tug-of-war between the news. Why is so much of the mainstream coverage of religion and religious issues decidedly amiss? Because of fear, Mattingly suggested. The undercurrent was, he said, "secularists, like to calling."

But how bias is the bane of the news-gathering enterprise itself, the configuration of "press, bias, resources" But editors must accommodate news on a daily or hourly basis; to get the machinery of the news they need. Very few news organizations have a religion beat; in Metro Manila, the reporter who covers the Catholic bishops often also covers other bishops—the Iglesia ni Cristo executive Minister, the Aglipayan Obispo Maximo, the Supreme Imam of the Philippines.

The second bias is the lack of knowledge. "Many of the journalists [covering religion or, based stories] simply don't know the basic terms," that a Philippine Star columnist once commented to supporters of the Reproductive Health Bill quickly becomes confused with specialization about excommunication (altogether a different thing). "Religion," Mattingly said, "is full of private bias."

The third bias is the impact of the journalist's world-view. "I personally think it's the most powerful one," Mattingly said. He offers yet again the example of the Terri Schiavo death, the Washington Post's public accused ad for any figure reporting period in 1994. Its "ideal model-class," he recalled the ad saying, to "new economic thinkers" was an expert in "religion." But if a religious view are an expert in "religion," that's a different thing. "Religion," Mattingly said, "is full of private bias."

The third bias is the impact of the journalist's world-view. "I personally think it's the most powerful one," Mattingly said. He offers yet again the example of the Terri Schiavo death, the Washington Post's public accused ad for any figure reporting period in 1994. Its "ideal model-class," he recalled the ad saying, to "new economic thinkers" was an expert in "religion." But if a religious view are an expert in "religion," that's a different thing. "Religion," Mattingly said, "is full of private bias."

The third bias is actual prejudice.

In the Philippines, coverage of the sometimes turbulent, always consequential papacy of John Paul II couldn't be contained to the strictly religious—because of the impact he personally on our history.

Over time I remember the days of this impact in the daily headlines of the Inquirer, the beginning of the week for 2005, in 2005. One, for instance, began with a single declaration of faith. "Especially as he

nery@inquirer.com.ph fabienery.wordpress.com

Pathways to '99

I ATTENDED MY HIGH SCHOOL REUNION A FEW DAYS ago. It was a much-delayed event, with all classes finally on synchronous and all, as I roamed the rooms and days looking up to it. Images of Rusty, Michelle and Rizza flitted in my minds as I saw them. Of David Cook, too, whose reunion I would be missing for my high school girlfriends years later.

Before that night, I thought of taking out my yearbook and immersing

Young Blood

Larisa Glenda Tegerero

in some of the names and faces of childhood. Its yellowed classmates that yearbook—covered in blue and maroon—still had the words "most likely to succeed" or "most popular girl" dutch. Probably because we didn't need those anyway. We already knew each other inside out, or at least we thought so. Anyhow, labeling ourselves seemed a bit childish, no? And we were sure because of the world, just?

Then, we were 17 to an all-girls school, which made the reunion balloon with even more excitement and, should I say, trepidation. (Or was it dread?) I wondered who among us had the weirdest jobs, the oldest children, the most fun marriages and the most drastic makeovers. Who was still blue and purple and pink and white, in that unique color combination that was our school's, and who had graduated with honors. Who still thought of herself as my friend, and who won't talk to me to breathe after.

But when I wondered about the most important thing I had really changed since high school. I suddenly found myself, 20 years (!!) years(!!) later—in my corporate clothes and black pumps, and lipstick on and my engagement ring secure on my finger—feeling exactly the way I did when I was still stuck-thin and wearing enormous eyeglasses. In this strange woman's body, I was a child again, awkward and self-conscious and confident, all at the same time.

Central to this whole suspended animation known as high school was the way we felt about the future. I think I have actually reached it by Ate Corrie's own notions and measures—it's decade ago started to flood in and wash out all that I had become. Along with that were unnerving questions that I entertained, like, what will they think of my chosen career, how well I take up to the others, and will they even remember me?

While all of the evening were wonderful, the welcoming, I realized carefully at the organization table, our name favor day at five past exercises in the evening. Once there, well, I was blown away.

In five hours, I was rushed from the comfort zone of our adulthood and transported to the precarious cradle of our youth. Back in those five hours, I remembered laughter and nostalgia, hallway through endings (read: pre-UP) videos and wide-angle DSLR shots, and to my quarter-seventy sing our graduation song "Pathways." I finally cropped. Stopped. Wondering.

But now in those five hours, and in the following days, I realized:

1. Friendships formed in high school are almost always found to last.

2. These friendships may not be the purest, but can certainly be the most honest.

3. There are those that do not last forever, however. Some may even end badly. So be prepared to face the consequences. Learn to forgive and forget. Learn to let go and to move on. In such cases, you can choose between fight and flight. I choose flight (which may not always be the right path, by the way).

4. And some friendships ... leave you hanging. No fault, well, there's always the next reunion.

5. Time is a funny thing. It can heal you have all changed, you are all different, and yet you are still the same. (This epiphany will throw you out of the loop for a few minutes.) The past to show that the essence of your being never really goes away—no matter how much makeup you put over how. This was for sure. It doesn't matter if you are the president of the country or a bum. You are the same kinder who cries easily or runs the people you met in puberty.

6. There are also friendships that you think you did not have, but actually had. What a nice surprise!

7. You were unstoppable as you have been, so why are you guessing now? Or, on the other hand, you were afraid. Looking back, you were afraid of nothing. You were just too afraid to believe in. Nothing holds a very past more than a frightened person!

8. In short, whatever we experienced in high school figures largely in who we are today. There's no one denying this. Instead, think those four years have the potential to bring out the absolute best in you. Be BOLD. If you regret, allowed to, don't waste them, and don't waste the next 15 years thinking bad for yourself. Live up to the promise, now.

9. We must thank the lessons, including up-to-the-nose, ah-so, cherish the people who taught them—teachers, classmates, friends, even the principal. Respect your school and uphold its magnificent values. For as we will always be a product of it.

10. No one has a perfect memory. My brain remembers half of what happened 10 years ago, and will probably remember even less in the next 10 years. But, oddly, that decade's also not as easy to forget. The space in my heart craved especially for high school reunions, and such remains unchanged.

I realized many from my high school for the second time that night. But I took home with me so much more than I thought I would, maybe even more than I did the first time. There is no way I can go back to my 16-year-old persona self and the 20-year-old half-conscious. But girl who—still from inside me and occasionally telling me where to go.

I share these thoughts with all those who will be taking a big down high school time and we stressing about what to wear (or not wear), you will all be beautiful. Most of all, I share these with my batchmates, for we will forever remember who we are and who we can be, simply because we have each other.

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu once defined "ubuntu" as the essence of being human. It speaks of his firm that my humanity is caught up and is inextricably bound up in yours. Whatever becomes I belong, it proves to experience through other persons.

I say who I am now because of them, my batchmates. It's that simple. I may not then again tomorrow, or in another 10 years, or perhaps even again, but I will walk "Through the pathways of my life" knowing we are connected—all 110 of us—and that we will always be 110 of us.

Goodbye for now, Batean of '99. 'Til my paths cross again.

Larisa Glenda Tegerero, 36, graduated from St. Scholastica's College-Manila in 1990. She currently pursues her bachelor's degree in Development Communication at the Philippine Normal University in Manila. She retired The Manila Galleries. She also has an M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning.

NGO hails Negros GMO ban

LETTERS

THE PHILIPPINE NETWORK OF FOOD Security Programmes (PNFSP), along with the Negros Rural Assistance Program Inc., supports the implementation of the memorandum of agreement on the establishment of the "Negros Oriental Mind" and Negros Occidental's provincial ordinance (passed on April 23, 2007) banning the entry, planting, transport and selling of GMOs, herbicides and non-living.

GMOs have been touted as the solution to hunger but it is not a feasible solution. In Negros Occidental, hunger is being worsened by the imminent "Sweppa Disaster" or dry yearly off-milling season. Sweppa Disaster, which usually lasts five to six months (April-December) every year, is expected to stay around month longer this year—from January to December or next November. This is due to the following factors: local concession in Negros; the skyrocketing prices of fertilizers and pesticides; the globalization policy of liberalization resulting in the unabated entry of imported sugar; sugar smuggling; climate change; and the widespread planting of GMOs.

We believe that the efforts to strengthen the livestock and poultry industry of Negros Occidental should not include the importation and production of animal feeds derived from genetically modified (GM) crops. There is increasing substantial evidence that GM-fed animals have problems with their growth, organ development, immune responsiveness, blood and liver cell formation, as well as damaged organs (shrinking stomachs, excessive cell growth, inflammation in lung tissue), sterility problems and rising death rates.

Furthermore, there is emerging evidence that if GM crops are fed to animals, GM material appears in the resulting meat and dairy products, and this raises serious human health concerns. GMOs are not a safe solution to poverty and hunger. They will only exacerbate the food crisis that the country is recently experiencing.

The PNFSP advocates sustainable agriculture and appropriate technology. Organic farming is not only economically agriculture, it is also safe and, in the long run, less expensive for farmers.

Relief assistance is urgently needed to cushion the impact of the hunger months, and rehabilitative efforts should be undertaken. In this regard, land should be distributed to the tillers and farm capital should be provided to develop the lands.

We challenge other local governments to follow Negros Occidental's example and ban the entry, planting, transport and selling of GMOs in their provinces. They should strictly monitor the entry and planting of GMOs in their areas. This will strengthen their livestock and poultry industry and avoid the serious human health concerns that GMOs pose.

—ISA LORENTE,
research, documentation/information and publication coordinator,
Philippine Network of Food Security Programmes Inc. (PNFSP),
research@pnfsp.org

Anti-American youth are without sense of history

I AM SO AMUSED BY THE ACCUSERS and I especially look forward to reading Youngblood articles. However, reading "Pro welcome, but" (Inquirer, 6/4/09), I disagreed with its author, Eric B. Demetrio, on some points.

It is a fact that all of us grow up with Americans in our social, political and moral life. I'm an American dreamer, but it was only in recent years that America has been so harshly criticized, ridiculed, even loathed, especially by the so-called modern-day patriot nationalists. I also believe that our youth's perceptions have been brainwashed by anti-Americans. I also believe that some of the young have lost their sense of history.

It pains me as a senior citizen that foreign economical ills' the negative aspects of our relations with the United States. True, Bush is poor and underdeveloped; and it does not have secondary economic activities that generate extra income. If there was no clear direction from the government, why would it pick Bicol province for the humanitarian mission that Ms. Blanca offers? For many years now, poor communities nationwide have reaped the benefits of the Visiting Forces Agreement in terms of better community life.

I'm not sorry that one so young as Demetrio knows so much about the state of the nation, and so is fascinated with life on the Philippines. With Internet adopting this line of thought, I think he must be in the wrong company.

Being an Ice is, Demetrio should instead be among the Filipinos enlightening those who have the same thoughts of desperation and assuring them that there's more hope for the Philippines. My advice is, yes, it is right to speak your mind. The world is not perfect and we humans beings are imperfect, but we can do so much if we remember the greater good and don't prevent or thwart willing to help. Yes, the boat has arrived (Internet's version of the internet)—but its passengers can only do so much.

—EUGENE B. SOLIBA,
palmerbeach@yahoo.com

Austerity, by limiting officials to 1 service vehicle

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS REpeatedly directed government agencies to adopt austerity measures and eradicate corruption in their ranks. The directive would not be difficult to follow if there is leadership by example.

But what we see right now are top government officials, especially Cabinet secretaries and undersecretaries, with several vehicles assigned to them—one for personal use, one for family use, one for official use, one or two more for backups. We sense can be said of top officials in the other branches of government.

Imagine how much money the government must be spending on gas, not to mention the other incidental expenditures, that come with the need to maintain the vehicles and keep them in shape.

Even mid-level officials are provided service vehicles. But quite often the gas consumed by these vehicles find their way into these officials' own personal cars. Not only that, these officials still collect transportation allowances and per diems. Their drivers benefit as much—if not more—from this dishonest conspiracy.

So what austerity measures is the President talking about? The most practical will be possible is that top undertakings will follow. She must direct that all government officials, without exception, should have one service vehicle only. She should instruct the internal audit unit of every agency under her—and ask for the help of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Commission on Audit—to investigate officials with assigned vehicles utilizing transportation allowances. She must ensure that those found guilty are punished accordingly.

Then we can expect huge government savings.

—MA. FLORVIDA DE LA CRUZ,
Tierra Vista, Bagumbong,
Caloocan City

Greedy cowards laying ground for Marcos Part 2

THE RAILROADING OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 1109 did not come as a surprise to many. Malacañang and the administration forces maneuvering to ensure that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo remains in power beyond 2010 or prime minister under a new Constitution. All the telltale signs are there: the frequent visits to her congressional district in Pampanga; the much-talked about plan to run for a congressional seat; the designation of her chief political adviser of bigwigs, Lakas Kampi, as roundtripper in political disturbance in Congress; the appointment of so-called "friendly" justices to the Supreme Court; the promotion and assignment of "friendly" military and police officers to critical units and commands; the aggression they use of allies in politically business and economic empire, among other Palace moves, indicate that the present Malacañang occupants is not bent on stepping down in 2010.

Her acquiescence after passed the resolution in the dead of night, as her heresy their seats—by a vote not in accord of nominal voting, she better not to oppose their laws and interests to the public. What cowards! All in the name of additional pork barrel, cash allowances and continued political dominance. What greed!

The railroading of HR 1109 came when Malacañang's chief paymaster was on another foreign junket, this time to the Netherlands, at a huge expense to taxpayers' money, absolutely at the House and its shield her from investigation that she is the main architect in the gang rape of our Constitution. But we all know better; we have read this script before. The most unpopular and most corrupt President holds the seats in this power called politics. We need all the forces we can gather to prevent a "Marcos Part 2."

—FERDIE T. SIBAL,
14 Green Leaves St.,
Capitol Green Village,
Tandang Sora, Quezon City

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Bgy. and Maestro Street, City of Makati or send a fax to him, 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

National Power Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

Re-Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Three (3) Lots of 1,145,000 MTs±10% Per Lot of Imported Steaming Coal (Preliminary Cost to Coal Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plant) (Y 2009)

1. NPC now invites duly eligible bidders for the above supply:

PLANT	VOLUME, MT	TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS	DELIVERY SCHEDULE	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) Inclusive of Maximum Loading Tolerance	PHILRA Contribution	Bidding Date, Time and Venue
Unit 1 (135 MW)	Three (3) Lots of 1 145,000 MTs±10% Per Lot	GCV : 5,900 KCAL/KG Moisture: 20.00% TM : 40.00 - 47.00 % (ARB) IM : 5.00 - 15.00% (ADB) Ash : 5.0 - 15.0 % (ADB)	Lot 1 MAY/JUNE/JULY (30) Aug. 5-14, 2009 Lot 2 AUG/SEPTEMBER (30) Sept. 10-19, 2009 Lot 3 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER (30) Oct. 15-24, 2009	Shall be based on the lowest calculated corrected delivered cost (Peso, Dollar, Indirect cost) and shall be determined by the Bidders Bids & Awards Committee (BAC) on the date of the Bid Submission	2 July 2009 8:00 A.M. PNOC-EDC	15 July 2009 8:00 A.M. Philippine Hall

Notes to the Bidding Documents for the Bid Security:

1. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using recommendatory prequalification under RA 9184.
2. To complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from 30,000 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 10,000.00 per copy, in cash or manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
3. Bidders with outstanding accounts with NPC are advised to fully settle their financial obligations prior to purchase of bidder documents.
4. Bidders shall be required to submit Eligibility Documents on or before 2 July 2009 for issuance of Clearance/Certification. The NPC Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) shall determine the eligibility of prospective bidders based on the submitted Eligibility Documents.
5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount stated in the Bidding Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
6. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids, to waive the bidding process at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s and to consider only bidders who submitted Eligibility Documents.
7. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from NPC's Bidding Website: http://www.napocor.gov.ph/ and from the Bidding Documents.

(Sgd.) EDMUNDO F. ARANA, JR.
Vice President, Affairs and
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PN – Issue 0, 2009)

MyVote MyTurn

HOW I WILL DECIDE

The Inquirer keeps me informed. The 2010 election is really about _____ (HOT TOPIC).

Our next president needs to be someone capable of _____ (CHARACTER TRAIT) like _____ (POLITICAL ANALYST), and not capable of _____ (POLITICAL SCANDAL). No one knows for sure what will happen. But I will make my vote happen.

NAME:
ADDRESS:
E-MAIL OR TEL. NO.:
GENDER: AGE:

Fill out, Clip, **Send** to **2010electionedit@inquirer.com.ph**. **Fax** to **897 4011**. Or send **SMS**: Type 2010 Name Address Hot Topic Character Trait Politics/Scandal and send to **0915 808 5560**.

INQUIRER

Monthly, our Research Department will collate the results which will be posted in the Inquirer. Entries filled with good-thinking/quirky ideas/innovative approaches/provocative opinions will receive surprise prizes.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites competent manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of Project	:	Establishment of Additional of TESDA Centers (TESDA Project NFO 1)
Brief Description	:	Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of various IT Equipment, Peripherals, Software and Furniture
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	:	P 110,000,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five (5) years and to submit at least 10% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check is basis as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bid/Bidder Identity Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference/s, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is/are, as follows:

	ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1.	Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility	June 15 – 23
2.	Evaluation of Eligibility Documents	June 24 – 25
3.	Issuance of Bid Documents	June 26 – 30
4.	Pre-Bid Conference	July 1 at 2:00 p.m.
5.	Submission of Evaluation of Bids	July 8 – 9
6.	Evaluation of Bids of the Bids	July 10 – 15
7.	Post-Qualification, Bids Approval/Execution	July 16 – 17
8.	Issuance of Notice of Award of Contract/Bid	July 18
9.	Opening of Bids	July 21 at 2:00 p.m.
10.	Bid Evaluation	July 24 – 31

Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of Seventy Five Thousand Pesos Only (P 75,000.00) to TESDA Cash Unit.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority assumes no responsibility whatsoever or consequential or indirect liabilities for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

TESDA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s and to consider only bidders who submitted Eligibility Documents. Bidders are advised to fully comply to the bidder whose proposal will be evaluated to have advantageous to the Authority.

(Sgd.) T. S. DARIO
BAC Chairperson

Across the NATION

Gov't willing to reopen talks for Vagni

RESCUE DRILL
Volunteers practice saving an injured victim during a rescue drill along Iligan River in Jaro district as part of the commemoration of the day Typhoon "Frank" hit Iloilo City last year.

By Tarra Quismundo and Jocelyn R. Uy

THE GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO SUSPEND MILITARY OPERATIONS against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu province to reopen communication with bandits holding Italian Eugenio Vagni, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said yesterday.

Citing updates from the ground, Puno said the government was pursuing three new means to reach out to the bandit group and evacuate talks with them: holding the 62-year-old International Committee of the Red Cross worker, known to still be alive but out of reach for weeks while security forces pressed on his captors in efforts to end the 8-mo. ransom hostage crisis.

"We are willing to consider the temporary cessation of pursuit operations in favor of some communication just so we can try to explore other means to resolve this," Puno said.

"I think right now there is an effort to reopen several lines of communication ... there are three avenues being offered as communication lines in order to avert hostilities while discussions are going on," said Puno.

He, however, could not divulge details of the plan citing the delicate situation.

Puno said local officials and villagers related to the bandits have requested that Vagni was "alive and healthy" and that his location runs "pretty much known, even while authorities had no credible photos contrary with the bandits as they moved around evading the military pursuit."

AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr. told reporters yesterday the main Abu Sayyaf kidnapper might have handed over Vagni to a smaller group which has relocated to a more populated area in Indanan, Sulu.

There were among the reasons the military cited for not sighting Vagni in the last few encounters between government troops and his kidnappers.

"The movement of our troops on the ground, specifically General Tobias, is that there is a big possibility that Vagni is not anymore with the main group and that he is being kept in a populated area," Brawner Jr. said.

He said the kidnappers may have decided to keep Vagni in a crowded area so that the military would not just launch an attack against them.

"Our troops on the ground are confident that Vagni is still alive," added Brawner.

Early Sunday, the 3rd Marine Brigade attacked an Abu Sayyaf lair in Barangays Tokay and Pugaan in Panamao town in Sulu.

The Abu Sayyaf reinforced with M60 machine guntrucks and 81MM grenade launcher during the hour-long heavy firefight.

Major Gen. Ananias Sollesta said four Abu Sayyaf fighters were killed.

In Zamboanga City, Lt. Estrellita Cacho, Western Mindanao Command information officer, said troops retrieved three bodies of the slain bandits. With a report from Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Another militant farmer 'abducted' in Mindoro

By Nikko Catherine Calinga and Cristina Arzadon, Inquirer Southern Luzon

A FARMER IN OCCIDENTAL MINDORO and one of the 72 activists previously charged with multiple murder, was abducted by military agents in civilian clothes on Sunday in front of Tigbog City, a human rights group said.

Glen Malabanan, deputy secretary general of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (Kmp), identified the farmer as Oliver Manayan, 31, a member of the Bayanihan ng mga Magsasaka sa Timog Kanlurang Mindoro in Occidental Mindoro.

She said Manayan was last seen Sunday evening before he was asked to join off the water tanks outside the house where he and his wife were temporarily staying.

According to Manayan's neighbors who were watching a basketball game in the plaza, four men in civilian clothes, three of whom reportedly took a man and a woman inside the vehicle. The four, clad in civilian clothes, were carrying long firearms, Malabanan said, quoting the witnesses.

A white Nissan Terrano car followed the van, she added.

Malabanan said she was not sure of the identity of the woman abducted with Manayan.

According Manayan's wife Lebay, she waited for him that night thinking he was just cleaning with the neighbors outside, until she fell asleep. When she woke up the next morning and did not see him, she began to worry.

Several metres away from the gate, Lebay found a pair of his slippers.

Manayan was among 72 activists and multi-sectoral leaders charged with multiple murder and frustrated murder in connection with the 2006 New People's Army raid in Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro.

Later, Branch 39 Judge Manuel Luis A. of Mindoro Oriental Regional Trial Court quashed the amended information in the case. Thus, seven detained activists in connection with the charges were ordered freed.

"We just hope Manayan will be eventually released. We are calling the police and military to present Manayan to us and bring the charges to court," she said.

Malabanan said Karapatan has formed a quick reaction team to search for Manayan.

Lawyers' rally

In Laoag City, lawyers in Ilocos Norte have pushed the alarm bell on the rising number of killings that have victimized a cross section of the community from lawyers, journalists and members of religious groups.

Members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in Ilocos Norte on Friday met with representatives from the police, officials of various media organizations, the Church and families of murder victims to plan an indignation rally that would focus on the rising number of killings here.

Lawyer Richard Tuliaoang, IBP president, told the groups that the June 12 murder of lawyer Eddie Gergolo has pushed the IBP to act on the series of killings in the community.

"We want to put a stop to these killings by involving the community in preventing crimes from happening," he said.

The protest rally will be staged in front the bustal of Gergolo, whose remains have been transferred to the family's house in Pinilig town.

"The rally will bring to light the need for the community to be aware of the cause and effect of broad killings and caution them on what needs to be done when needs to conduct may again present itself," Tuliaoang said.

City police chief Supt. Sterling Blanco said Gergolo's murder would have been prevented had residents in the village where he lived been more vigilant.

Blanco said before the killing, residents allegedly saw people casing Gergolo's apartment but failed to notify the police or village officials of such sightings.

Gergolo was the eighth lawyer killed by assassins' bullets in Laoag in the past 11 years.

Other prominent murder victims in Ilocos Norte were lawyers Jose Batac and Buenaventa Auvelo, Judge Ireneo Rubio, radio broadcaster Roger Mariano and Catholic priest Heriberto Ripoltal.

Thousands plant trees in Davao Oriental

BAGANGA, DAVAO ORIENTAL— Thousands of students, environmentalists, village officials, workers, farmers and fishermen in the province were one in the streets Monday morning and formed a human chain, lining up along the 266-kilometer stretch of road that connects this town and the farthest coastal town of Boston, to plant around 300,000 forest and fruit trees.

The event was part of Davao Oriental's target to plant one million trees this year as the provincial government's commitment to the campaign against global warming. As declared of 2011, it is hoped that the trees planted, not only along the roadsides but also in farmer forested areas, will reach five million.

There are at least 93 protected areas and marine spots in Davao Oriental's 11 towns, including Mt. Hamiguitan, known for its forest forest which has been declared a national park and nominated as World Heritage Site in the Unesco.

The province remains known for its thick and mixed-old growth forests, although many of these areas—also identified either as national protected areas and ancestral domains of indigenous peoples—are now being threatened by mining and illegal logging operations. Even a portion of Mt. Hamiguitan is being eyed by foreign companies for nickel mining.

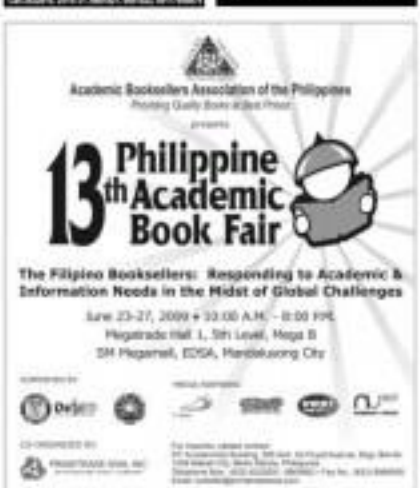
Governor Corazon Malanyaon said the tree planting event is hoped to "regreen" the entire province and to contribute to the "abatement of global warming and control of environmental degradation."

Malanyaon recently issued Executive Order 08 that institutionalized the One Million Tree Project and declared every 22nd day of June as tree planting day for Davao Oriental.

Sulaiman Alcaraz, presidential adviser for global warming and climate change, lauded the project as it is expected that the government's campaign against global warming through the Carbon Catching Coalition versus Global Climate, is getting headway to the province.

"We have to wake up as the country is extremely vulnerable [to environmental catastrophe]," said Alcaraz, Jeffrey H. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao

Soap Making, Marketing Techniques at UP
CAR LOAN
FACTORY SALE
COMMUNICATE!
Choose from our English Proficiency Courses and enjoy our unique method of training.
Visit www.speechpower.ph
NEW CLASSES BEGIN TODAY.
Cubao 9110832
Ayala 7357156
Buendia 8312836
9110833 7357163 8312931
idec
Split Type Wall Mounted Aircon
1hp-P16,500
Free Installation!



SPORTS
Editor Tonipet T. Balanon • Sources Editor Francis T.J. Dehon

Barnes, Glover still out front; top guns lurk

Rains again halt 4th-round play

SURPRISE co-leader Lucas Glover happy to be playing before the everybody else.

FARMINGDALE, NEW YORK—IF ONE POINT SUNDAY AFTERNOON, Tiger Woods was 10 shots off the lead at the US Open, where Ricky Barnes was threatening to turn the tournament into a mockery.

By nightfall, Woods was seven back, and a dozen players had the lead as evening sight.

The US Open is in boss way.

Final-round play resumed Monday morning at Bethpage Black, with Barnes—who made bogey on six of his final 13 holes—tied with playing partner Lucas Glover for the lead at 7 under, both with 27 holes remaining.

They've got a fluidic cushion over Phil Mickelson, David Duval, Hunter Mahan and Henrik Stenson, all of whom sit 2 under only in their rounds.

Mickelson, determined to bang a birdie-ish, finish to a US Open career filled with disappointment, made seven birdies in his third round of 69 that left him six down behind. He has been the runner-up four times in the US Open—three times in New York—and is desperate to bring a trophy of sheer home in with him to his wife and three children.

"I'm one good round away," said Mickelson.

Mike Weir was six shots off the pace, and the world's No. 1 trail out of it, yes, either. Woods made a putt in the fifth for birdie at the seventh hole, getting to even par and still in the hunt for his second straight Open title.

"You have to play a great round of golf and get some help," Woods said. "Obviously, it's not totally in my control. Only thing I can control is whether I can play a good one or not."

It's an unlikely duo in the final group. Forget feuding: Barnes has only been within 10 shots of the lead after the third round of a PGA Tour event three times before in his career, and Glover has never won on tour.

For 4 while Sunday they seemed by far the class of the field.

Taking advantage of Bethpage's soft fairways and greens—and making plenty of great shots along the way—Barnes joined an exclusive group early in his third round, when he made a 25-foot eagle putt on the par-5 fourth hole. That sent him to 11 under, in US Open history only Woods, Jim Furyk and Gil Morgan had ever been double-digit below par.

It didn't last long.

Barnes started to sink down toward the midpoint of the third round, quite possibly feeling the strain that comes with leading a major for the first time.

"I've got to get my legs moving with my arms," Barnes said. "We all have that thing go together."

He only complained one hole before darkness stopped play around 9 p.m. Barnes went 55 holes without a bogey before without running, making par because a struggle.

"I'll take a look in 54 holes other any event, let alone the US Open," he said.

Glover hasn't been on this kind of stage either but seemed anything but rightly-second before the third round.

He avoided jokes about the weather, lamented how he might not have a book to read Sunday night—he's read, already having completed four more entering at Bethpage Black—and even made fun of himself over beginning to out.

"It's going to be pressure-packed no matter," Glover said.

Glover proudly pointed out after 54 holes that he had birdied more "playing holes than everybody right now." but was also quick to add that with the exception of players trailing, soon no one going to close the gap. AP

Dangerous Duval back in the hunt at US Open

DUVAL

FARMINGDALE, NEW York—Being in contention at the US Open is more enjoyable than ever, David Duval said on Sunday after navigating the sublime front nine that made him world No. 1 10 years ago.

The 37-year-old American, now ranked 302, drew a stunning slide from the pinnacle of the game, drew a third-round 75 on Bethpage Black to be in final place. Six shots behind leader Ricky Barnes.

"I'd like to think I enjoyed it more now, you know, eight, 10 years ago, when I was on top of the world," Duval told reporters.

"But with a life that's a little more complete, I probably honestly enjoy it more now. I have been down and I've been up and I've been in between places, I probably feel like I don't single do it to myself anymore. There's a nice feeling." Duval dealt with injuries, turmoil in his private life and unproductive swing changes in his fall from the seat of dominance that brought him the British Open title in 2001.

Marriage and a home full of children have helped put life in perspective for Duval, who finished his battle at the Open through 36 holes of qualifying in 2006.

"I had developed some very bad swing problems and through it had lost all confidence, "the 13-time winner said.

"I believed I could get it back."

Duval, whose last victory came in the 2001 Disney Presidents in Japan, said he was determined to drive his kids he had a fighting spirit, despite carding 80-plus rounds at the 2004 US Open and the 2006 Masters. Reuters

FEDERER: Role-deserves to open Wimbledon

Federer opens Wimbledon fortnight

LONDON—ROGER FEDERER MAY need to feel like an imposter when he steps out to open Centre Court proceedings at Wimbledon on Wednesday.

The 27-year-old Swiss has been given the honor usually bestowed on a reigning champion after his grand-slam record-holder Rafael Nadal pulled out of the prestigious event with a knee injury before a ballboy even bounced.

"I should be slowest in this year because I think deserved it, but I'm obviously very honored that the championships chose me again to open the tournament," Federer, who won Centre Court in the opening match in 2003, 2004 and 2006, said.

The newly crowned French Open champion, who became only the sixth man to complete a career grand slam, will begin his pursuit of a record 15th grand slam title against the only Asian in the draw, Lu Yen-hsun of Taiwan.

There is also, of long list, is reasonable to look up Centre Court, as an on that drew back to 1922.

But a match absolutely appropriate a Federer-Andy Murray final on July 5 will have to wait until Tuesday to catch a first glimpse of the third seed.

Instead, fans can cheer on 25-year-old debutante Laura Robson, who earned a wild card thanks to her run to the junior title 12 months ago.

The world No. 1 opponent is Sorana Hantchova Iano, been given the honor of

commencing the first ever match on the new 4,000-seater Court Two.

US and Australian Open champion Serena Williams, who has contested three of the last four grand slam finals, would enjoy a quick workout against Portuguese qualifier Beatriz Gilo.

The only real threat lurking in Williams' side of the draw is Dinka Shaparova, who has been bumped up to 32nd seed despite being restricted to following a nine-month layoff. Reuters

SPORTSWATCH

Chin, Soriano rule regatta

SOPHIE ALEX CHIN AND PEDRO SORIANO took home twelve victories apiece as the Philippine Sailing team overtook Hanoi Navy to win the overall title in the Vietnam Challenge and the Ho Chi Minh Challenge, which was held over the weekend.

Chin, the secretary general of the Taiwan Association of the Philippines, and Soriano beat out 11 other boats and regattas competing in the adventure and sports tour last week.

In it, Soriano led his crew to second place, while Tan Lake Yacht Club commodore Peter Dandoodo settled for third.

The competition is among the international sailing events supported by the state's gaming firm, including the Philippine Indie Challenge and the Ho Chi Minh Games, which will have boating to name county destinations.

By Top Choice
Ar Sunta Ana Park

Race 1—(Quadrella)
(1) Alan Jose
(2) Ms. Bing
(3) Super Lad
(4) Dark Tiger
(5) Ms. Bing
(6) Alan Jose
(7) Super Lad
(8) Dark Tiger

Race 2—(Pentafecta) Galaxy Boy (10), Starlight (5), Hangang (2), Star Ball (6), Rosita Miss (3)

Race 3—(Pentafecta) Red Jewel (2), Open (3), Good Galaxy (1), Speed Rock (5), Lucky Phantom (4)

Race 4—(Pentafecta) Cute, Nancy (11), Red Spot (4), Rich Impression (1), Dynasty Star (10), Star Ball (6)

Race 5—(Pentafecta) Galaxy Boss (2), Lee Cute (1), Ms. Ang (7), Sir Time Lang (12), Daddy Gab (5)

Race 6—(Pentafecta) Sir Sergeant (6), Star Jose (4), King Prince (7), Chakradeepakshi (3), Gold Rock (2)

Race 7—(Pentafecta) Rose Castle (2), Mister Rambino and Commissioner Bank (4), Prime Gold (7), Lucky Speed (3)

Race 8—(Quadrella) Isabella Rose (4), Castle Rock (12), Wishing (3), Star Strike (11), Frankenstein (5), Prime Gold (8)

RED Bull's Sebastian Vettel celebrates in his car

Vettel tops British GP; Red Bull 1-2

SILVERSTONE, ENGLAND—SEBASTIAN VETTEL created history in the British Grand Prix on Sunday, leading a 1-2 finish for Red Bull for the second time this season.

The 22-year-old German's faultless 23 1 second victory over teammate Mark Webber displayed their faith in the Red Bull RB5 car, and a well-oiled pit stop operation of both cars helped them overwhelm.

"I had a fantastic car, it was unbelievable," said Vettel, whose car had a new nose, underwing and diffuser. "I was able to push push more."

Ferrari GP's Felipe Massa finished after struggling with back pain, but teammate each championship leader Jenson Button finished a tenuous last ninth.

Having won six races out of eight, Button still leads the championship by 22 points despite failing to finish on the podium for the first time this season. Button has 66 points, followed by Barrichello with 41 and Vettel with 30. There are nine races left.

Ferrari's Felipe Massa finished fourth as he did to Monaco last month, edging Nico Rosberg of Williams.

It was a miserable day for world champion Lewis Hamilton, who finished 16th after being lapped by Vettel. He is currently 11th in the drivers' standings. AP

GAB needs a slap on the wrist

BARE EYE

Meyer Translod

GOING BY ITS RECORD, IT'S NO longer easy telling in love with the GAB (Games and Amusements Board), whether in or off the boxing ring.

OK, the GAB gives out of its way to appreciate professional sports at the ceremony.

Its first, just like many sequestrations, earns an enviable 100 percent attendance at Manny Pacquiao fights in the United States.

But in the latest move, the GAB looks to be drinked-off its standard-bearer list.

The GAB acted on a sensitive boxing case only after a strong protest.

As reported in this section over the weekend, the GAB declared the controversial Lawrence Villanueva-Eric Macias fight in Ormoc City last May 23 a "No Decision."

In a resolution signed by GAB chairman Eric Buhain, commissioner Angel Ramirez and commissioner Isaac Benamir-Isaacson, the board said "it appears that the (at stalkered) by Macias in the fight position of his eye was due to a legitimate punch from Villanueva."

But in the latest move, the GAB looks to be drinked-off its standard-bearer list.

The GAB acted on a sensitive boxing case only after a strong protest.

As reported in this section over the weekend, the GAB declared the controversial Lawrence Villanueva-Eric Macias fight in Ormoc City last May 23 a "No Decision."

In a resolution signed by GAB chairman Eric Buhain, commissioner Angel Ramirez and commissioner Isaac Benamir-Isaacson, the board said "it appears that the (at stalkered) by Macias in the fight position of his eye was due to a legitimate punch from Villanueva."

A statement from Pilodi's office said the fight, scheduled for 10 rounds, was the prospect Villanueva, a legitimate featherweight, featuring Macias, a junior lightweight, sticking in the opening round.

The fight, the statement added, was stopped with about 15 seconds left in the fifth round after referee Delbert Pangcoy saw a cut below the right eye of Macias and declared it was caused by a headbutt, thereby ruling Macias winner by technical decision.

That ring robbery would've gone unchecked.

But a review of the fight video, a staff of the Pilodi protest, later showed that the cut was caused by three powerful punches from Villanueva.

Villanueva, one of the top featherweight prospects in the country, came into the fight with an impressive record of 11 wins with 11 KOs. The four against Macias was the first time went beyond four rounds for Villanueva.

With the "no decision" ruling, the GAB also gave the parties the option to stage an immediate rematch.

That decision could indeed sound unfavorable to the few who still love the GAB.

But not to Pilodi, who's expected to make a stronger move.

Meanwhile, California-based Dr. Edilo Ong wrote the GAB missed the whole point.

Dr. Ong, who provides the winning insulin pumps for Manny Pacquiao, hosts Pilodi pretended not solely for his fighting but for boxing as a whole.

"The GAB chairman said, 'Decide it, go said. "They did not have the — to make out penalties, or at least slap the guilty on the wrist."

Dr. Ong, who has been helping provide worthy foreign fare for penetrating Gilmanite pugs, said the GAB took the easy way out.

He said the government agency was unwilling to affect referees to punishment and sports themselves.

GAB pushed Dr. Ed said.

He's not alone.

Pinoy booters cleared of A(H1N1)

But Singaporean authorities keep them in quarantine

THE PHILIPPINE FOOTBALL TEAM HAS tested negative for influenza A(H1N1), or swine flu, a day after one of its players came down with the virus at the ongoing Asian Youth Games (AYG) in Singapore.

But all 20 members of the squad, including two coaches and a doctor, will remain in quarantine at the Aloha Lepang Resort until Friday, say organizers.

The Philippines was slated to play in Group B with hosts and Chinese Taipei, but its matches have since been postponed.

An AYG spokesperson told The Straits Times on Sunday that "fixtures for the other groups are not affected."

But it is understood that the Philippine team will be asked to withdraw from the AYG, as it is too hostile to extend the competition dates to accommodate them.

Meanwhile, the infected footballer is still undergoing medical treatment at the Communicable Disease Centre, where he is in stable condition.

The 14-year-old developed flu-like symptoms last Friday, and tested positive for the virus a day later.

The identity of the 14-year-old Filipino was withheld by organizers. He arrived Thursday with his teammates and developed symptoms on Friday afternoon.

He was found to have a fever during routine temperature taking. He sought medical attention at the village's medical center and was placed in an isolation room. Laboratory results confirmed his infection on Saturday, and he was admitted to the Communicable Disease Centre.

The Straits Times/Asia News Network

SINGAPOREAN medical volunteers interview two members of the RP football team.

Amateur MVP joins PBA draft; Gabe shines

By Jasmine W. Payo

ANOTHER AMATEUR MVP HAS SINCE HIRE will available for the Philippine Basketball Association draft, adding luster to this year's rookie class.

Chris Timberlake, a UAE Finals MVP winner, still lead seven other foreigners with Filipino roots who want to join the pro ranks through the ring 1 draft.

"He comes out each game ready to play 100 percent, he's a one role model," PBA commissioner Chito Trinidad said of Timberlake, a 5-foot-7 guard who pioneered the Diwata Pilipinas in their seventh straight title this month.

Timberlake, a former University of North Florida standout who counts his roots in Tarlac, averaged 11.2 points, 4.3 rebounds, 4 assists and 1.3 steals in the five-game title series.

Former UAAP MVP Jerry Cruz of University of Santo Tomas and La Salle stalwart Bino Manalebaler lead the local hopefuls.

Other PBA-tie aspirants include PBL players Lester Cotton, Josh Urbanozo, Michael Barnachez, Chris Varela and Sammy Williams along with Liga Filipinas aspirs Terrell Threlfall and Charles Minors.

Meanwhile, Ivan or Alstott's Gabe Norwood captured the Mobiliza Accel-PBA Press Corps' Player of the Week honors after leading the Elasto Painters to an inspiring 2-1 lead over the favored Talk 'N Text in their best-of-seven semifinal duel in the Skydeer PBA Fiesta Cup.

"I can't take all the credit. My teammates allow me the space to use my talents," he said.

Norwood stepped up for the underdog squad which is missing several injured players by averaging 15.3 points and 10.3 rebounds.

"Missing some key players, he became more aggressive in offense and defense," Batangas coach Caloy Garcia said of the 29-year-old ager, the leading contender for the Rookie of the Year plum.

Norwood unloaded 16 points on top of 10 rebounds and three steals in a 101-95 Rain or Shine triumph in the opener.

The 6-foot-5 Fil-Am registered 13 markers and nine rebounds in a 96-102 Game 2 loss, but responded with a game-high 17 points and 12 boards in a 94-88 victory last Sunday.

ROACH FIRES HOOPER

Michael Hoover is (plus) will not be seen training Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao again. The 41-year-old boxer said he suspended during conversation in an interview with Freddie Roach at the Wild Card Gym was fired by Roach himself. The main reason stadium a dispute personalities between Hoover and Roach's prize wards—world pound-for-pound king Pacquiao and British star Amir Khan. Roach was quoted in a report by Boxingnews.com as saying: "Amir Khan approached me and said, 'Freddie I want you to be my trainer, not Manny.'" Pacquiao's also not too keen on having Hoover around, says Roach. Hoover, who was taken in by Roach in March, helped in Pacquiao's preparation for Ricky Hatton, whom he knocked out in two rounds in May 2 in Las Vegas. TSTANDFOR.COM.PH/DOWNLOADS

Asian YG stint looks bleak for footballers

By Cedell P. Tapas

LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALL OVER FOR THE PHILIPPINE Football team in the Asian Youth Games in Singapore despite an appeal by the Philippine Sports Commission chair Harry Sinagatang to allow the squad to play after one of its members tested positive for the swine flu virus.

Arguing said three new cases of the influenza A(H1N1) virus involving members of the Hong Kong football team has all but derailed the Filipino booters' chances of playing in the tournament, which kicked off Saturday.

"They could have easily accommodated us," Sinagatang said last night. "But they couldn't do this immediately. And with the new cases in the Hong Kong team, numbering roughly six (it looked likely). It could go either way."

Arguing appealed to the AFG organizing committee and the Singapore Ministry of Health in a meeting yesterday afternoon in order for the number of days for quarantine to coincide the Filipinos to play on Thursday.

Singapore newspaper The Straits Times reported that the rest of the members of the 21-man football delegation, including 17 players and coaches Andrew Saratiago and Bob Salvacion and a team doctor, had tested negative for the virus Sunday two days after 14-year-old player Claudio Lugo, who studies at PAREF Southridge School in Muntinlupa, had contracted swine flu. (See story above.)

The team arrived in Singapore Thursday.

"The good thing is that Singapore has one of the best medical facilities that could help the player recover faster," the PSC chief said.

Arguing said the meeting was going well, until organizers were informed about the three new cases in the Hong Kong team.

"I told them it was disappointing for the players to train and not be able to play," Arguing said. "I had it happened to them, they told us they'll also appeal their case."

Lugo, according to Dr. Alejandro Pineda of the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine, was among the six players who did not get sent the vaccine before leaving for Singapore.

Of the 66 athletes bound for Singapore, only 11 received anti-flu vaccine shots.

'Challenge': Bata eyes revenge over Alcano

By Ray Lauren

YOGA MASTERS SPEAK "BODY SPEAK" seeks revenge over fellow former double world champion Ronnie Alcano when they tangle in the Challenge of the Legends: The Masters versus The Retirees tomorrow and Thursday at the dome of SM North Edsa in Quezon City.

The last time the two clashed in the 2006 World Pool Championship, Alcano bested Reyes out in the Last 16 and proceeded to clinch the crown.

"I think this was the only time Ronnie and I met in a tournament," said Reyes, at 53 still one of the world's most feared and adored players, in Filipino.

That time, Reyes hopes to turn the tables on Alcano, who has not seen a major title in the last ten years.

"No doubt Ronnie is one of the best players in the world today, and I know that he really loves to go up against me," said Reyes. "I'd like to get even."

The match format is 13-ball rotation, which is the original pool game of Filipinos and where Reyes and Alcano are considered among the best in the world.

Reyes said rotation is a lot tougher than 9-ball and 14.1-ball because there are more balls on the table.

The race-to-5, alternate break event is presented by Sen. Manny Villar's Nacionalista Party in cooperation with the Billiard Managers and Players Association of the Philippines and supported by Cignella.

Also on tap is the 2007 podcast Sotch Doubles All-star Challenge featuring the pairs of Dennis Orcollo and Emily Vale (Happy Promotions), Alex Pagulayan and Nedelth Lasa (Ovaltine Sparks), Lee Van Corteza and Warren Kiamco (Segafredo Zanetti Espresso) and Rubilen Amit and Jeremy Jamili (Cignella).

Also on tap is the 2007 podcast Sotch Doubles All-star Challenge featuring the pairs of Dennis Orcollo and Emily Vale (Happy Promotions), Alex Pagulayan and Nedelth Lasa (Ovaltine Sparks), Lee Van Corteza and Warren Kiamco (Segafredo Zanetti Espresso) and Rubilen Amit and Jeremy Jamili (Cignella).

ALCANO

REYES

ASIAN KARTING

RP's Reyes is Asian Jr Open champion

FRANCO VICTOR PURY REYES backed-to crush in the first heat to top the 125cc Junior Open class during the kickoff leg of the Asian Karting Open Championship recently at the Sentosa race in Cebu on Macau.

The 13-year-old Reyes did on a dirty start of the finish and slammed rear the the wall, resulting in a five-race crash. He went on to finish ninth in the first heat won by Indonesia's Ivanhoe.

Reyes recovered quickly to top the second and third heats, beating Rahul Mayer of Malaysia in the pre-final and finished first, just two seconds clear of Indonesian Rahardjo in the rain-delayed final race.

"I had no choice but to pass it all out," said Reyes, a seventh grader from Antero who is coming off trials to the World Cup in Suzuka, Japan and races in Thailand in the summer. "No way will I hand the title to them after all the hard work we did."

The win also allowed Reyes to surge ahead with 48 points in the overall standings for the Asian Junior Kartor of the Year plum. The Philippines' two overall champion last year after claiming five of 11 titles.

The next track homegrown Reyes' performance in the final race. He made is his aggressive driving techniques to ward off Rahardjo and Rahul Mayer and eventually rule the race.

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD Franco Reyes of the Philippines (No. 31) negotiates the wet and slippery track during the final race.

Reyes was pulled out by a medical team after the first heat crash and given a check-up before he was cleared to rejoin the roster from the pit lane.

The pre-final also saw Rahardjo crowned another Filipino, reigning Asian Junior ROK champion Joey Orobia, to land second behind Reyes. Rahardjo and Hong Kong karter Stan Robinson rounded up third and fourth.

The second-round nod he held at the Commerce Circuit in Cavite on July 10 and 11; the third round on Aug. 15 and 16 in Bacolod, Indonesia, the fourth on Oct. 18 and 19 in Ilocos and the fifth on Nov. 7 and 8 in Thailand.

Eaglets, Junior Archers in early UAAP collision

By Jasmine W. Payo

RIVALS ATENEO AND LA SALLE Zobel swap battle right on opening day of the UAAP junior basketball competition with both squads still boasting of a talented crew of second-generation players.

The Blue Eaglets, bidding for a second straight championship last the three senior encounters, kick off their campaign against the Junior Archers on July 12 at 2:15 p.m. at The Arena in San Juan.

Team captain Al Bugaris will lead the Eaglets' repeat bid along with PBA rookie Chot Reyes' son, champion coach Joel Banal's son Joel, former Taraday brother Ely Capacio's son Tim and former Hills Bookie of the Year Beng Raneses's eldest Kiefer.

Nico Elorde, grandson of boxing great Gabriel "Flash" Elorde and youngest son of boxing promoter Johnny and Lito, will spearhead the 2007 champion Archers' bid together with Luigi dela Paz and Greyser Capacio, the son of Far Eastern U coach Glenn.

Last season's runner-up NU-FEBTI clashes with Adamson at 12:30 p.m. in the second game of the opening four-game fall.

The University of the Philippines and University of the East open hostilities at 9 a.m., followed by the 10:45 a.m. battle between University of Santo Tomas and National University.

Kids fun run starts today

MEGASIS GRAME SCHOOL WILL open today as six-week fun run organized by Looney Tunes Active aimed at promoting a healthy and active lifestyle among children aged 4 to 12 years old.

The kick off leg of the 3K and 5K series to be held in eight Metro Manila schools will start at 3 p.m. at the Mission grounds in Ramparan, Quezon City.

Clarin School will stage the second leg on Thursday.

A 45-minute running clinic will be conducted by former UP track and field coach Elisa de la Cruz during each stop until Aug. 5.

Looney Tunes Active set up the project to encourage both children and their parents to get involved in sports while having fun.

La Salle-Zobel, Ateneo and San Beda-Alabang are also hosting.

Registration fee is P500 for either 3K or 5K and P700 for both categories. Log on to runwithlooney.runnerclick.com.ph for more details.

Salgados, Alfonso clinch Shell-NCR chess plums

LEHNON SALGADOS DEDIE HIS HARD-nosed match with Herbelen Salcedo and then nipped Ateneo's Jan Garcia in the tiebreak to capture the junior division crown in the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships-NCR leg at SM Mall of Asia on Sunday.

Salgados, ranked 19th in a field of 110, scored 7.5 points in the last two rounds, including a crystal-clear second-round win over top-seeded Charon Ji, to cop the 20-and-under category of the annual event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell.

Second- and fourth Alfonso Jose Wad Evangelista and Giovanni Mejia in his last two games to overtake the luckless duo with 7 points.

No. 23 Kenneth Baltazar downed Kristian Ignet 15th-seed Mahrdin Bwak, then edged Paulo Cristobal in the tiebreak to rule runner-up honors with 6.5 points.

Other awardees were Charlene Saude of Letran (top female player), three-year-old Jose Ginoo Fuentes (youngest player), Julius Gonzales (top 8-year-old), Patricia de Leon (sportsmanship) and La Immaculada Conception School and HGU as the most represented schools with 47 and 18 players, respectively.

Garcia and third placer Jaynar Mercado joined Salgados in the grand finals.

Imagine hitting a hole-in-one from the comfort of your living room.

Take your place among
Life's Great Masters at

8

EIGHT FORBES TOWN ROAD
Golf View Residences

With breathtaking views of the Manila golf course, 8 Forbes Town Road lets you enjoy a front seat to luxury. Here, the green is so close that you can't help but be part of the action. And like the scenery, the lifestyle you call your own is reserved for a favored few. Come home to a lavish suite with your choice of one to three bedrooms. And discover on your doorstep a multitude of privileges. There's a wide range of amenities at the seventh-level play deck. A chic retail arcade at the podium. And an array of leisure offerings at nearby Forbes Town Road. Even the world's best destinations are at your command with your central location at the Global City, minutes away from the Makati CBD.

Master the fine art of living at the top.
At 8 Forbes Town Road.

A joint Venture of
BONIFACIO WEST

and

MEGAWORLD CORPORATION

Visit us at the Forbes Town Center Showroom, 4th Floor corner Rizal Drive Crescent Park West Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila

Tels: 815-1888 • 816-2768 • 816-3517

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulandey

FOR VIOLATION OF POLICE PROCEDURES IN FAILON CASE

Napolcom suspends 6 QCPD officers

By Tarra Quismundo

THE NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION (NAPOLCOM) yesterday ordered the six-month suspension of six Quezon City police officers for their use of excessive force in arresting broadcaster Ted Failon's in-laws in the wake of his wife's shooting two months ago.

In a 22-page en banc decision, Napolcom also ordered the removal of Supt. Franklin Mateo Wabang, Supt. Gerardo Ramona, Chief Inspector Davey Lee Bonoan and Senior Insp. Roberto Rincon Jr. and Insp. Wilmir Garcia from their current detail at the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) for breaking procedure.

The officers, all assigned to the QCPD Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (CIDU), in the

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE A-10

DID YOU KNOW

LIBINGAN ng mga Bayaning Fort Bonifacio was the final resting place of tens of thousands of Filipino soldiers who died in the Bataan Death March and in battles fought during World War II.

Cyril C. Benedicto
Inquirer Research

NO TO-CHA-CHA
A man and his son walk past an anti-Cha-cha (Charter change) sign on the anniversary of the Philippines' conquest in Bataan, Quezon City. NOY LORRAINE

Teen nabbed for selling drugs to schoolmates

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT was arrested yesterday morning after a security guard caught him trying to smuggle into school a pouch containing drugs.

Eddie Leo Suaga, 18, a third year student of Teodora Alonso High School on Felix Huertas Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila, have admitted that he sold drugs to his schoolmates so that he would have money for his school needs.

Supt. Erwene Tendero Jr., Manila Police District Sta. Cruz district commander, said Suaga was apprehended by the school security guard Leander Atillano at the school gate at around 10:30 a.m. yesterday.

Tendero explained that before Suaga's arrest, the Alvarez police community precinct had received school officials about reports of "drug trafficking (activities) inside and [at] the immediate vicinity of the school."

Atillano told police investigators that the suspicions of Suaga when the one boy browse a schoolmate's bag as it thought he was carrying his own bag.

He added that in the two students passed through the school gate, Suaga took a small pink pouch from the borrowed bag which he then examined to his chocolate.

Atillano said the called Suaga and asked him to show him what was in the pouch.

When the student refused, the threatened to report him to the school principal unless he did as he was asked.

Atillano said that when Suaga opened the pouch, the saw that it contained 13 plastic sachets containing dried marijuana leaves and flowering tops, prompting her to call the police.

During questioning by the police, Suaga confessed to selling drugs and even identified his supplier.

Tendero said that before the student's arrest, the station had received information about his illegal activities as well as that of his alleged accomplice who was identified only as Monica.

Suaga was placed in the custody of the Sta. Cruz police pending the filing of charges of violation of Republic Act 9165 or the Dangerous Drugs Act against him with the City Prosecutor's Office.

EPD chief tells men: Beef up antidrug drive or else . . .

By Oliver Teves

POLICE OFFICIALS IN THE western part of Metro Manila have received a warning from higher headquarters to beef up their antidrug campaign, lest they face relief in the wake of last week's raid on the Maquoja pc Compound in Pasig City, which yielded several grams of suspected illegal drugs.

Chief Supt. Leo Cabagnot, director of the Eastern Police District (EPD), said he issued a memorandum asking the police chiefs in the cities of Pasig, Marikina, Mandaluyong, Mandaluyong and San Juan to impose a tighter watch on suspected drug trafficking activities within their jurisdictions.

"The warning was for all four of chiefs-of-police, especially Pasig," Cabagnot told the Inquirer.

On Friday, narcotics agents raided three houses at the site of the infamous shabu "druggie (Shu market)" in Pasig City, including one called "Shabu-

raising," a three-story building allegedly belonging to a big-time drug operator.

The early morning raid, conducted by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, led to the seizure of five half-filled sachets of a white crystalline substance believed to be methamphetamine hydrochloride, or "shabu" in street parlance.

Under the police "one-strike policy" regarding drug-related activities, Cabagnot ordered the immediate relief of Chief Insp. Roy Bagsing, the commander of the police community precinct that had jurisdiction over the Maquoja Compound.

Cabagnot said Pasig police chief Senior Supt. Romeo de Jesus would face the same fate, should another incident occur in his city.

In February 2008, narcotics operatives raided the same compound and discovered the existence of an illegal drugs market located just a few meters from City Hall.

On forgiving your enemies

THE FRONT PAGE ARTICLE in the Inquirer Sunday about the pain and anguish of a father, Jose Fernando Abrantes, over the death of his son was very moving.

As a father myself, I understand how Abrantes feels about losing his son. Arnel, in an accident on the Manila-Subic expressway.

I fully understand his pain. My anguish even a year after the accident.

Losing a loved one suddenly and unexpectedly is painful beyond words. He emotions number 8.

It's also understandable that he would want to exact revenge on Ma. Theresa Nieto for his son's death by sending her to jail.

Theresa drove the van that ran over Arnel.

A single mother, Theresa drove a school van to augment her income as an artist.

Nothing Abrantes can do, including meeting a single mother in jail, can ever bring back Arnel.

ON TARGET
Alastair Tiglao

Sending Theresa to jail and depriving her child of a mother is cruelty.

Her case is no exception. All capture is setting like an atheist, a person who is faceless.

Abrantes's thought of revenge on Theresa would have been understandable had she deliberately killed Arnel.

I would probably have had a hard time myself deciding not to take revenge if I were a loved one to a murderer since I distinct see judicial system.

But the poor woman, whom I don't know from Eve, never wanted to take Arnel's life.

In fact, from the news accounts about her, she's suffering the pain of motherhood for killing a boy she could have

been her son.

If Abrantes would just pause and ponder for a moment why his son died, he would realize that it was Arnel's time to go back to where we all come from, the bosom of The heaven.

It just so happened Theresa became the vehicle for Arnel to go to the Other Side.

Abrantes should learn to forgive the woman who killed his son unintentionally.

I know it's hard, but one to forgive people who have done him harm.

I used to be a person who always thought of getting back at people who wronged me. But that was three.

Since I changed my attitude from holding a grudge to forgiving my enemies, I have noticed little things about me.

I now sleep soundly, my blood pressure has dropped, I don't easily catch a cold, my pupils' silver is gone. I wear drink moderately and I've

lost weight from cooking meal-remedy.

In short, I've become healthier now than I was when I held a grudge against my enemies.

An self-improvement guru George Sheu said of a stick-mate: "The question is not what will you, but who will you."

When you forgive your enemies, you're not doing him a favor, but yourself.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile calls for the abolition of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), calling it "one of the most corrupt agencies of the government."

Almost time PCGG was abolished.

Since it was set up by then President Cory, the PCGG has been more one often the other by leaders who raided the coffers of companies supposed by the government.

No sense should have been PCGG, the Presidential Commission of Corrupt Opposition.

Big 3 oil firms call for independent assessment of safety measures in depot

By Aris R. Ilano

TO SILENCE THEIR CRITICS, the "Big 3" oil companies have called for a third party to conduct an independent evaluation of the safety and pollution control measures being implemented in the Pandacan oil depot.

In a joint statement issued recently, Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Chevron Philippines Inc. have "expressed willingness to shoulder the expenses for an assessment by an independent party of the safety and pollution control aspects of their operations, provided that the

risk assessment is among the top 10 in the world in order to ensure its competence and credibility."

They added that the entire assessment, up to the disclosure of the findings, would be completely open and transparent.

The three oil companies operate the fuel facility in Manila which has been the subject of controversy in recent weeks due to the approval of Ordinance 8187 which allows its continued operations.

The ordinance, approved on May 28 by Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, amended Ordinance 8027 under which parts of Sta. Ana and Pandacan were reclassified from industrial to commercial zones, therefore banning the operations of the oil depot.

Shell, Petron and Chevron said they recognize the fact that communities around the facility and concerned stakeholders would like to ensure possible if the fears were to come from a reputable and independent body—even though they can "confidently assert that the depot exceeds international and Philippine standards on safety and pollution control."

They added that they have taken many steps since 2002 to ensure optimal living near the facility of their adherence to safety standards and in scaling down the depot's operations, reserving the storage area for liquefied petroleum gas, relocating other fuel storage tanks and rerouting gasoline trucks.

On top of these, the three said they were carrying out major risk reduction projects at the depot to further scale down their operations in the area.

For example, Petron said it was now identifying alternative sites for its fuel storage operations at its Bataan petrochemical plant and Subic refinery. Caltex and Cardinal Realty also said they would reduce the concentration of their inventory facilities in Pandacan.

A PROTESTER calls on authorities to stop storing the poison oil products in front of the Pandacan oil depot in Manila. AP/ROLEX DELA PEÑA

METRO
Citizen's Call
Your Story of Adventure and Breakthrough
Your stories. Tell us all about it.
• Did a signage make your day?
• Garbage dumped on your street, cumulate your day?
• Street dialogue forever on the street, return to class?
• Are you up to some spiritual (or mundane) test?
• Joined by a little-known barangay project with a big positive impact to your community?
• Win much to politicos?
• Met up with meeting new feeling neighbors?
• In short, do everyday non-news to your neighborhood?
• Imagined/created fresh on your way to work?
0918-8885566
P.S.
INQUIRER

Napolcom . . .

Front page A1

time of the arrests, were earlier noted out a 30-day preventive suspension while under investigation for administrative charges.

There other officers earlier tagged in the arrests—Supt. Marcelino Pedroso, Senior Police Officer 2 Jerry Acuda and Police Officer 2 Joyrabin Maceda—were removed of the lack of evidence.

"It is disappointing for this commission that we have to dismiss of police operational procedure and relieving [on wrong high-ranking officers particularly in CIDG, because it's the unit, above all, that should be familiar with such procedures," Interior Secretary and Napolcom Chair Ronaldo Puno said in a press conference.

Puno said he do officers were found guilty of grave misconduct for accepting unlawful commissions the siblings of Tulfo's wife: Trinidad Rivera, and the family's house helpers.

The warrantless arrests, which the Napolcom called "an overzealous enforcement of law," were carried out after the police final observation of justice charges against Rivera's sister and brother and four of her household help.

The charges were later dismissed by the Quezon City Prosecutor's office while the National Bureau of Investigation, to whom the police turned over the investigation amid questions on impartiality, moved to dismiss the Rivera shooting a case of suicide.

Rafuddin, meanwhile, said he and the other officers would elaborate all legal measures, including filing charges against those responsible, to restore the Napolcom's order.

With Julie M. Aurelio

METROBRIEFS

Man nabbed for drugs in Taguig

ARTICLE 1 operations yesterday arrested an alleged notorious drug peddler said to be related to Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) took custody of Joel Tinga in a buy-bust operation in Lower Bicutan, Taguig City, at around 4:30 p.m. yesterday after he was reportedly caught selling P100,000 worth of shabu to an agency asset, a PDEA official said. Maj. Val Lapaz, chief of the PDEA Complaints and Prosecution Unit, said Joel was arrested after monitoring surveillance operations and case build-up. "There was a surveillance order of him to a pre-arrest," Lapaz told the Inquirer. The agency tracked down the suspect through his cellphone and investigators, said Lapaz. Agents seized roughly 10 grams of shabu from him, said the official. PDEA Director General Dionisio Santiago said Joel was a recidivist who had earlier been arrested on drug charges but escaped prosecution due to technicalities. This is a relative of Mayor Tinga, but we know the story is clear, and I decided that because you can't choose your relatives, that's also living his hard to deserve his area of drugs," Santiago said.

Sara Soberano

'Missing' LTO official contacts police

AN OFFICIAL of the Land Transportation Office who survived an ambush-type attack has contacted the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) to clarify reports that he had left the country following the incident. Supt. Gerardo Rotaña, chief of the QCPD's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, said Camilo Sicam went to his office on Saturday morning. "He clarified to us that he didn't leave the country and that he is willing to cooperate in the investigation," the police official said in a text message. Sicam, the director of the LTO National Capital Region office, survived an ambush on March 17 after three-car fired at his vehicle as he was on his way to work. Rotaña said Sicam also told them that the attempt on his life was definitely related to his work as an LTO official. "He told us that this ambush by unknown work-related and not personally motivated. He still have to get substantiated from him though," Rotaña added. Police earlier said they stated Sicam's bosses had also told that this official had already left the country. "People believe that he just changed administrative for her his life but he is willing to cooperate with the police in the investigation," Rotaña said.

Julie M. Aurelio

"UTEGATE" affair protagonists Australia Prime Minister Kevin Rudd (right) Treasurer Wayne Swan (center) and the then chair of the Australian Republican Movement (ARM) and current opposition leader Malcolm Turnbull. AFP

E-mail at Australia 'Utegate' scandal a fake, police say

SYDNEY—AUSTRALIAN POLICE on Monday said the e-mail at the center of the 'Utegate' scandal was a fake, blowing a hole in opposition calls for Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to resign.

The apparent forgery was revealed after a police raid on the home of Godwin Grech, a senior treasury official whose testimony to a Senate inquiry sparked the row.

"Preliminary results of these forensic examinations indicate that the e-mail referred to is the center of this investigation has been created by a person or persons other than the purported author of the e-mail," a police statement said.

The announcement capped a day of high political drama with Rudd, Treasury Wayne Swan and opposition leader Malcolm Turnbull, whose job survival was in the line, embroiled in heavy exchanges in parliament.

Turnbull's opponents were upbeat initially reinforced after he spent days calling for Rudd's job, basing claims that he misled parliament on the discredited e-mail.

The note, supposedly sent by Rudd's economic adviser and published by weekend newspapers here, had appeared to back up allegations that the prime minister helped a car dealer friend seek government funds.

But Rudd slammed the move: opposition as "false, fictitious and a forgery" and turned the attack on the opposition, describing the events as the "hortid Turnbull e-mail hoax story affair."

"This fraudulent e-mail was the rock on which the leader of the opposition has constructed his case against me and the treasurer," Rudd said.

"This rock has now disintegrated into mud."

Swan also accused Turnbull of "grubby opportunism."

"He must pledge today to make available all of the resources used by the opposition for a police inquiry, because it is clear the grubby opportunism of the leader of the opposition knows no bounds," he said.

As the politicians argued in parliament, police searched Grech's home with the help of IT experts, later announcing that the e-mail in question appeared fake.

Grech on Friday told a Senate inquiry that he believed Rudd and Swan had weighed in on behalf of car dealer John Grant, who was seeking access to government funds.

He admitted that he had no proof of intervention by either man's offices. But on Saturday, media published a transcript of the e-mail supposedly sent by Rudd's economic adviser Andrew Charlton.

"Hi Godwin, the PM has asked if the car dealer financing vehicle is available to assist a Queensland dealership, John Grant Motors, who seems to be having trouble getting finance," the transcript said.

"If you can follow up on this asap that would be very useful. Happy to discuss, tx."

Turnbull, who has been calling stridently for Rudd and Swan to resign since Friday, moved to reassure the treasurer for not disclosing his involvement in the "deals-for-money" scandal.

"What we have here is a shocking abuse of power," Turnbull said.

The row constitutes a tough challenge for the government of Rudd, which has enjoyed strong public support since taking power in late 2007. AFP

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Ayala Malls Cinemas' TRANSFORMERS REVENGE OF THE FALLEN Screening Schedules for June 24 only

Visit your favorite Ayala Malls Cinemas ticket booths or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservation.

FREE SERVICE 3 YEARS OR 60,000 KMS

3 YEARS WARRANTY OR 100,000 KMS

SUZUKI

Way of Life

SUZUKI AUTHORIZED AUTO DEALERS:

www.suzuki.com.ph

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Quirico

US to sharply reduce Afghan air strikes

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—THE NEW US COMmander in Afghanistan said he would sharply restrict the use of air strikes here, in an effort to reduce the Afghan civilian deaths that he said were undermining the US-led mission.

In interviews over the past few days, the commander, Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, said the use of air strikes during firefights would in most cases only be allowed to prevent US and other coalition troops from being overrun.

Even in the cases of senior firefights with Taliban forces, he said, air strikes would be limited if the combat were taking place in populated areas—the very circumstances in which most Afghan civilian deaths have occurred. The restrictions would be especially tight in attacking houses and compounds where insurgents are believed to have taken cover.

"My person contains the result of our own choices prior if we do not see it responsibly," McChrystal told a group of his senior officers during a video conference last week. "We can lose this fight."

"When we shoot near a compound, that should only be by the permission of our forces," he said. "I want everyone to understand that."

The statements by McChrystal signaled the most lightsaber of the rules for using air strikes, which, while considered indispensable for protecting troops, have killed hundreds of civilians. They have also angered the Afghan government, which has repeatedly criticized US and Nato forces for not taking enough care with civilian lives.

McChrystal's new guidelines follow a deadly episode in the Afghan village of Ganaan on May 4, when US air strikes killed dozens of civilians while supporting a Taliban attack.

A Pentagon report completed last week estimated that at least 26 civilians had been killed in the air strikes. It concluded that US personnel had made significant errors, including violating procedures, that led to those deaths. Other credible estimates of civilian deaths in Ganaan ranged much higher.

The deaths in Ganaan are part of the large rise in civilian casualties that are characterizing the war in Afghanistan. A UN report found that the number of Afghan civilians killed in 2008 was 40 percent higher than in 2007. The Taliban and other insurgents caused the majority of the civilian deaths, primarily through suicide bombers and roadside bombs. NYT

With a plan and a rope, reporters escaped the Taliban

KABUL—AN AFGHAN JOURnalist who was held captive by the Taliban for seven days considered using a New York Times reporter revealed details on Sunday of a nighttime escape that included weeks of careful planning, taking advantage of severe gunfire and dropping from a 20-foot wall with a rope.

The Afghan journalist, Tahir Ludin, 32, said in an interview that the escape only began after from the second floor of a Taliban compound in North Waziristan, in Pakistan's tribal areas, was compromised by two terrorist detonations aimed at reporters who believed that the Taliban were not seriously supporting and would hold them individually.

Ludin and David Rohde, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist at The Times, along with their driver, Asadullah Mangal, were abducted outside Kabul on Nov. 10 as Rohde traveled to interview a Taliban commander for a book he was writing about Afghanistan.

Ludin said Rohde and Rohde had been threatened with death by their captors. The pair flew to three months once as "hopeless," Ludin said, that he considered committing suicide with a cargo knife. Rohde, who was wrestling with his family on Sunday, confirmed the accuracy of Ludin's account but declined to comment further.

The three men were indicted on a road just a few minutes from where they planned to meet the Taliban commander, known as Abu Yazib, in Logar province, southeast of Kabul.

Ludin had previously received two other foreign journalists to talk interviews with the commander, and during those meetings the two established a degree of trust. Ludin said Yazib had betrayed that trust by cleverly orchestrating the kidnapping.

As their captivity dragged on, he said, he and Rohde began plotting their escape by surveying the compound and its surroundings.

While telling his story, Ludin showed flashes of his exuberant personality, at times he seemed like a stern and professional "the food was excellent," or when he joked about the gray hairs he had grown since his abduction. He spoke with his seven children, gathered around him.

But never often than not, Ludin spoke in a heart of sorrow and offended several times to being in a confined material state. On three occasions, he mistakenly referred to a visiting journalist as "David."

Ludin said the driver, Mangal, appeared to be overwhelmed by fear of his captors and had not participated in the planning or the escape. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

11 bodies from Air France disaster identified

SAO PAULO—Eleven of the 50 bodies recovered from an Air France jet that plunged into the Atlantic three months ago have been identified by fingerprints and dental records, Brazilian officials said on Sunday. The first two were identified on 1 10 bodies are not one foreigner," officials in the northeastern Brazilian state of Pernambuco said in a statement. Five of the 8 captains were male, the other five were female and the foreigner was male. If added: The officials, part of a task force that also includes Brazilian police and forensic specialists conducting autopsies in the city of Recife, did not give further details about those identified. They said the families of the identified Brazilians had been visited personally on Friday and Saturday by police officers close to the victims. The embassy of the foreigner who was identified was also notified. There were 228 people from 32 countries onboard the airliner, which went down on June 1 off the coast of Brazil on a flight from Rio de Janeiro to Paris. The cause of the disaster—the worst in Air France's history—was not known.

AFP

7 hurt as turbulence hits Qantas A330 from HK

SYDNEY—Seven people were hurt when a Qantas Airbus A330 hit severe turbulence flying from Hong Kong to Perth on Monday, the company said, sparking an investigation into why the crew ignored the warnings of pilots. Six passengers and one crew member were treated on arrival after the flight, which happened about four hours after take-off. The plane, with 256 passengers and 13 crew, landed safely in Perth. One passenger described hearing a loud bang before a sudden drop in altitude sent people flying. Two overhead panels were slightly damaged and their oxygen masks were discharged.

AFP

Bomb hurts head of Russia's Ingushetia region

NAZRAN, Russia—The head of Russia's Muslim region of Ingushetia was seriously wounded in an assassination attempt on Monday, sending a fresh blow to the troubled region's fragile ale of the North Caucasus. Ingush President Yunus-Bek Yevkurov was badly but not killed. 0830 local time when a bomb in a parked car detonated as his convoy drove past on his way to work, the Russian Prosecutor General's main investigation said said. President Dmitry Medvedev condemned the attack as a "terrorist act" and ordered the chiefs of the science ministry and the FSB security service army out a full investigation. The accused Mezhidov which Yevkurov, 45, and the driving was battered by the explosion, which propelled [—meter-deep crater in the road, a witness said.

Reuters

IN THIS ISSUE
- Ayala eyes investment in realty projects abroad /B2
- WB sees deeper slump for most economies /B8

Editor Raul D. Morales • Assistant Editor Cornie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

ICS RENTALS

World Bank sees RP slipping into recession

Neda disputes forecast, expects strong Q2 growth

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD BANK HAS WARNED THAT THE Philippines would slip into recession this year, saying government efforts to stimulate the economy would not be enough to revitalize foreign investments as the global turmoil continues to push businesses to the sidelines.

The Foreign lender has projected that the Philippines would post a 0.5-percent contraction in its gross domestic product this year and thus join its neighboring countries that earlier reported a contraction of their economies.

The World Bank said there was nothing extraordinary about the Philippines. Out would keep it immune from the crisis gripping the world economy, which is projected to contract by 2.9 percent this year.

The bank's forecast on the Philippine economy runs counter with the government's projection that the economy would escape a recession and grow anywhere between 0.6 and 1.6 percent this year. This would be slower than last year's actual growth of 4.6 percent, but the government said it would be much better than forecasts for other developing economies.

The Philippine will avoid a recession this year with second quarter growth expected to outperform the first three months of the year as the government accelerates spending to cushion the effects of the global economic slowdown.

"All report things to be better than the first quarter," Nikkoli Taiaguilen, deputy director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, told reporters on the sidelines of the launch of a United Nations jobs and migration program yesterday.

He said that the government's annual growth should gather speed in the second quarter, with government and consumer spending picking up, supported by modest remittance flows.

"Surely there is no recession. Resiliency will win over recession," he added.

The World Bank, in a report released yesterday, said that

WORLD BANK /B2

₱2.5-B upgrade of Caticlan airport set

By Rea T. Dichoso

THE CATICLAN AIRPORT'S ALL set for a ₱2.5 billion expansion into an international airport.

The government, through the Department of Transportation and Communications, yesterday signed a concession agreement that will enable project proponent Caticlan International Airport Development Corp. (CIADC) to proceed with the development under a 25-year build-operate-transfer scheme.

Under the agreement, the CIADC has up to seven years to build and expand the airport and 25 years to operate the facilities. Once the President and other key government officials approve CIADC's operation, the 25-year period can start even before the seven-year timeline ends.

"This public-private partnership ensures that our government's infrastructure projects are developed at no cost to our government," Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said in an interview.

CIADC chair George Yang noted that the Caticlan project would be "the first-ever privatization of an airport terminal in the country."

Financial advisor Jessy Valdez said the ₱2.5 billion would come from 30-percent equity and 70-percent debt from a mix of government and private banks.

PUBLIC /B2

Peso-dollar currencies

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
₱48.479 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 22, 2009

Stock Market

Profit-taking lifts stocks

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Toyota Bigtime Summertime
It's the easiest way to own a Toyota Innova or Vios!
FINAL CHANCE!
Catch these cool deals now!
CASH OUT
FREE
NO Chattel Mortgage
FREE LTO Registration
FREE Gas card
Big savings also available for cash buyers.
TOYOTA
TOYOTA
moving forward

Ayala eyes investment in realty projects abroad

Move to rebalance portfolio

AYALA LAND, THE PHILIPPINES' biggest developer, yesterday said it may revive its long-held ambitions of growing its overseas business and will invest directly in foreign projects if the opportunity arises.

Chief financial officer Delfin Ocampo also said there were "early signs" of an improvement in the Philippines' residential market although that will not be reflected in 2009 earnings because of the way the firm accounts for property sales.

"Now is the time to revisit our overseas initiatives to rebalance our portfolio," Ocampo said at the Western Global Real Estate Summit in Singapore.

Ocampo said the Philippines would remain the firm's main focus in the foreseeable future and did not elaborate on the company's overseas plans.

Ayala Land, which has long harbored ambitions of diversifying beyond its home market, has a stake in a $200-million Asian real estate fund that has invested in Thailand and India but it does not directly own any foreign properties.

The firm last month posted a 30-percent fall in net profit for the first quarter ended March on P967 million on lower project booking.

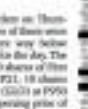
Ayala Land, like many developers, recognizes revenues progressively as projects are being built, so an expected recovery in second-half home sales will not be reflected immediately in the firm's revenues, Ocampo said. *Reuters*

Expecting the unexpected

AM I SAYING THAT THE MARKET rally is coming to an end?

Some good friends have wrongly accused me of being a bear on the equity market simply because I have expressed caution at the local market situation. And I gave them scientific fictional names that affectionately characterize their individuality such as the one I call "Whisper" because of his talent to capture decades (also termed high power politics and big business. He just told me to expect some market upsetting activities ahead.

Then, later comes...other bit biz prediction for summary I call NIGHTING...saying that the buy price of Smart Telecom for Pilipino Telephone Corp. (PLTL) should be set at the disappointing price of Ph.50. This was per the PLTL wager of my friend "Hag"...who I will explain why I call him that later...into when the friends call "deficos."



MARKET READER

DON SANTOS

Virtual games Week 2

"The Oracle" cautiously opened new positions on Thursday, June 18. His orders were to buy two more stocks which were sent at the early morning hours of 9:20 AM. These were: 5,000 shares of Banco De Oro Unibank Inc. (BDO) at P51.50 and 10,000 shares of Philex Mining Corp. (PX) at P6.45. The buy orders were all executed as desired.

For deliberately limiting his field bags, he leads the virtual game as of Friday, June 19.

The "Intrepid," on the other hand, was a busy body last week. He dashed up the most number of models/dealings as "they appear tested/priced already." He should have won on her one man installment. Because he is obviously slowly exposed, his portfolio again dipped lower.

"Trader28" finally had a trade. He sent a total of five orders on Thursday and Friday, but two of them were invalidated. They were way below the minimum price for the day. The valid orders were: 500 shares of First Gen Corp. (FGEN) at P21, 10 shares of Globe Telecom Inc. (GLO) at P950 but validated at the opening price of P940 being the highest bid for the opening offer price, and 200 shares of Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) at P42. Her overwhelming ambition for said stock picks is that "they have positive fundamentals."

The trades were very small in volume and value, as she claims "the market would be trading at low volumes." Her strategy as for keeping the newly acquired investments is preserve capital. For that, she is barely affected by the current market drop.

The "QB Trader" had opened up two more positions during the week. Her portfolio suffered as a result. The two were somehow cushioned by her better stock picking.

"Trust Me" and the "Predator," together with Mr. "Underbuckle," were absolutely "no trade" for the week. "Trust Me" and the "Underbuckle" just left their stock positions unchanged. The "Predator," on the other hand, has yet to make a trade. To recall, the "Predator" attempted to enter a trade on the first week but was invalidated as she picked a stock sparsely traded.

(See table at left for the performance rankings of our virtual players.)

Bottom line spin

As of the close of trading last Friday, the PSEi lost some 209.50 points in just one week, a full session since nine months ago. Everyone insists on connection to a simple comeback that could mature into a healthy market correction when stock prices drop some more to about 10 percent or up to 1/3 to 1/2 of the price change they had from the uptrend. But all said, the current upward pause could always turn into a trend reversal.

Having error into the philosophical pan issued to me by NIGHTING and mate GL "Expect the unexpected so that it wouldn't make the unexpected yet unexpected." Therefore, investors is closely monitor the volume and turnover value of the market.

(You may reach the columnist Market Reader at marketreader@inquirer.com.ph or directly at donsantos@yahoo.com.)

Portfolio Summary and Performance Standings as of June 19, 2009

Date	Stock	Shares	Price (Ph)	BUY	SELL	Cash Out	%	PHP (Ph)
				1.0000	0.0000	600,000.00		
1st Place: Jo the Instinct/Intrepid, The Oracle								
06/18	BDO	5,000	51.50			(257,500.00)		
06/18	PX	10,000	6.45			(64,500.00)		
06/19	PX	10,000	6.50			65,000.00		500.00
2nd Place: Trader28								
06/18	FGEN	500				(10,500.00)		
06/19	BPI	200				(8,400.00)		
06/19	FGEN	500				10,500.00		500.00
3rd Place: QB Trader								
	DMC	1,000				(27,000.00)		
	MBT	1,000				(37,000.00)		
06/18	DMC	1,000				28,000.00		1,000.00
06/18	MBT	1,000				38,000.00		1,000.00
4th Place: Trust Me								
	BDO	10,000	51.50			(515,000.00)		
	BPI	10,000	42.00			(420,000.00)		
	MBT	10,000	38.00			(380,000.00)		(40,000.00)
5th Place: Underbuckle								
	SM	5,000	550.00			(2,750,000.00)		
	BDO	10,000	51.50			(515,000.00)		
	MBT	10,000	38.00			(380,000.00)		
	DMC	10,000	27.00			(270,000.00)		
	PX	10,000	6.50			(65,000.00)		(3,980,000.00)
6th Place: Cyndibuster								
	BPI	10,000	42.00			(420,000.00)		(420,000.00)
7th Place: Predator (No valid trade to list)								

₱2.5-B upgrade of Caticlan airport set

From page B1

Valdez added that the airport would have a commercial component to be supported by Airtow Transit Corp., which will build hotels, food centers and other commercial establishments on a 16-hectare area beside the airport.

"The commercial component could easily reach P10 billion," he said.

He also expect that these areas will be more attractive for passengers since airlines can use aircraft with more seating capacity than the turbo-propellers they are using now." CIADC president Lino Bueta said. That means more revenue-expansion for the CIADC.

Yesterday, said the company would also apply for tax benefits under the new Tourism Act, which supports sustainable tourism development.

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY 2009

Philippine Pru Life Insurance Co., Inc., is the first commercial stock life insurance company to receive its Certificate of Authority from the Insurance Commission on June 19, 2009, for having complied with all the requirements on Capitalization, Margin of Solvency and Reserves, among others.

Seen in photo (L-R) Deputy Insurance Commissioner, Vida T. Chiang, Philippine Prudential Life Insurance Co., Inc. President, Ms. Gregorio D. Mercado (middle) and Insurance Commissioner Eduardo T. Malinis.

World Bank . . .

From page B1

"For several countries – including Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines—outright reversion to unemployed this year."

The report, titled "Global Development Finance 2009: Charting a Global Recovery," said developing countries, including the Philippines and others in the East Asia and the Pacific region, would face steep declines in the inflow of foreign capital this year.

Economic forecasters would drag down overall economic growth, it said.

The World Bank projected that combined inflows of foreign, private investments in developing economies would be slashed to $363 billion this year, just about half of the $707 billion registered last year when the crisis was punctuated by the failure of several financial giants in the United States and Europe. It noted that last year's foreign capital inflows to developing nations was already a sharp decline from the $1.2 trillion recorded in 2007.

While it noted that banks in the Philippines were less exposed to toxic assets than fueled the recession in industrialized countries, the bank pointed out that developing nations could not avert the spillover effects of the crisis because of their links to the industrialized ones.

With a report from Reuters

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

As of June 22, 2009

CURRENCIES

June 22, 2009 Countries	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1.00000	1.00000	47.4700
Japan	Yen	0.01040	0.01040	0.4936
United Kingdom	Pound	1.64000	1.64000	77.8308
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.12900	0.12900	6.1233
Switzerland	Franc	0.89000	0.89000	42.2383
Canada	Dollar	0.87000	0.87000	41.2989
Singapore	Dollar	0.69000	0.69000	32.7483
Australia	Dollar	0.77000	0.77000	36.5519
Bahrain	Dinar	2.65000	2.65000	125.7705
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.26600	0.26600	12.6250
Brunei	Dollar	0.69000	0.69000	32.7483
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00010	0.00010	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.02900	0.02900	1.3764
UAE	Dirham	0.26700	0.27200	12.9096
EU	Euro	1.39000	1.39000	65.9833
Korea	Won	0.00080	0.00080	0.0380
China	Yuan	0.14600	0.14600	6.9306
Kuwait	Dinar	3.34000	3.34000	158.5498
India	Rupee	0.02000	0.02000	0.9494
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.28000	0.28000	13.2916
New Zealand	Dollar	0.62000	0.62000	29.4314
Sweden	Krona	0.12000	0.12000	5.6964
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.02900	0.02900	1.3764

Source: Bankers Association of the Philippines

Moody's sees rare contraction in consumer prices

By Michelle V. Rosca

CONSUMER PRICES MAY REGISTER a rare contraction in the third quarter as the economic downturn dampens demand for goods and services.

According to Moody's Economy.com, the sustained deceleration in price increases soon dares to turn last year's eventually turn into a year-on-year drop in July and August.

Price movements will also be affected by base effects as the increase in the cost of goods and services accelerated to a record pace in the third quarter of last year, said Moody's Economy.com.

Because prices fell 30 a 17-year high of 12.0 percent in August 2008, there would be no room for further increases in the same period this year, said the research unit of credit rating firm Moody's Investors Service.

"In July and August, the CPI [consumer price index] may contract in year-on-year terms due in large part to a base effect from last year's inflation spike," said Shibdokh Biswhas Barayan, associate economist at Moody's Economy.com.

But the research unit said deflation—defined as a long period of falling consumer prices—was unlikely, noting that the decline in prices would only be short-lived and confined to the third quarter.

Inflation, or the rate of increase in consumer prices, slowed down to 3.1 percent in May after hitting 4.8 percent in April and 8.9 percent in March.

The government has projected that inflation would fall below one percent in the third quarter. But officials do not expect a contraction in average prices.

Moody's Economy.com said prices would decline in July and August, but noted this should not be cause for alarm as prices would register a slight increase starting September.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has projected average inflation to settle at 3.4 percent this year, much down from last year's 9.3 percent. The inflation forecast for this year is well within the official target of between 2.5 and 4.5 percent.

Gov't banks on IT, BPO to weather economic storm

By Abigail L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT is counting on the information technology and business process outsourcing sectors to help the country weather the economic storm.

With June formally declared Information and communications technology (ICT) month, Commission on ICT head Ray Anthony Roxas-Chua said the role of the sector was very much paramount, particularly with BPO being one of the few remaining sunshine industries in the country.

The theme for this year's ICT month, "Making the new wave with ICT," was very much suited to the times, he said.

"This year's theme highlights that, now more than ever, ICT will play a crucial role in our nation's future. Already, we are witnessing the benefits of ICT to various aspects of development," he said in a statement.

The ICT/BPO sector, for example, has enrolled resilience in the midst of the current global economic crisis. "We consider aggressive deal with our 'Next Wave Cities' initiative, we will be able to bring the economic benefits of the industry to cities outside the seven ICT/BPO hubs of Metro Manila and Metro Cebu," he said.

Nevertheless ICT Month will formally end on Monday with the launch of "Love ng Pinoy 2009: Empowering the Filipino Through ICT," an activity that continues a roadshow and virtual caravan in the country's Cyber Corridor.

The program involves a nationwide tour of the top 10 cities outside of Metro Manila and Metro Cebu that are best suited for BPO location.

The roadshow, in particular, will zero in on e-government, human capital development, information infrastructure and cybersecurity.

Napocor seeks payment of ₱1.5B in dues

By Amy R. Remo

NATIONAL POWER CORP. (Napocor), the country's top electricity producer, is set to ally cross-agency companies and contractors that have overdue accounts with the state-run firm, according to its top official.

Collectively the accounts are worth at least ₱1.5 billion, said Napocor president Froilan S. Tanglao.

Napocor officials have sentenced all bad and past-due contracts since October last year, Tanglao told reporters.

Delinquent payments for marked contracts during the period had already amounted to at least ₱500 million, while bad contracts could possibly reach some ₱1 billion, he said.

But the companies and contractors with delinquent accounts may appeal their respective cases with Napocor.

Having presented his recommendations to Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes, Tanglao said he would seek clearance from the Napocor board to go after delinquent firms.

Local pharmaceutical firms expect 12% growth this year

By Abigail L. Mo

DESPITE THE TOUGH ECONOMIC environment, local pharmaceutical companies expect a 12-percent growth for the year, higher than the industry's outlook projection of 7 percent.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines said Filipino firms could take advantage of a number of expiring patents this year, as well as those that had lapsed over the past two to three years.

When patents expire, local manufacturers could start introducing generic versions of patented drugs. This would certainly expand the domestic market, but would also reduce the cost of medicine.

Market competition is evident with the strong growth of the local pharmaceutical industry. This growth is driven by the entry of more generics due to patent expiry of several products in the last five to three years," PHAP executive director Renee Elena said.

The share of local manufacturers in the drug market is also seen to rise to 35 percent and would likely continue to expand through 2010 and beyond.

PHAP said multinational drug firms have expected to grow by only 4 percent this year.

As of this month, the combined growth of local and multinational pharmaceutical firms came up to 9 percent.

In 2008, the industry grew by more than 10 percent to reach a market value of P116 billion.

In the meantime, Elena said PHAP members supported the enrolment of their firms in the government's retail price (MRP) provision of RA 9502, or the Universally Accessible, Quality and Cheaper Medicines Act, should calls be send as a "cost saving instrument."

"Its imposition is not necessary given the existing market competition and wide availability of alternatives in the same therapeutic classes included in the latest MRP list," he said.

He said there would be more generic competition in the market anyway, as fewer drugs are encouraged for MRP at this point.

Sun Life unit offers global balanced fund

THE LOCAL MUTUAL FUND UNIT OF SUN Life of Canada has started offering what it claims to be the "first locally global" balanced fund available in the domestic market, targeting those in search of alternative investment outlet for their foreign currency earnings.

The "Sun Life Dollar Advantage Fund" is a launch of Sun Life Asset Management Co. Inc.'s existing US dollar mutual fund that used to be heavily invested in Philippine global cash bonds or RORs. The balanced fund is envisioned to invest in a mix of low-risk equity-based mutual funds outside of the Philippines as well as fixed income instruments other than RORs for a minimum participation of $2,500.

In a recent briefing, SLAMCI chief operating officer Ben Thomas Fonacier said there had been a growing demand for foreign currency-denominated investment among Filipinos and the company would like to cater a portion of the country's huge pool of foreign currency deposits currently lodged with banks and mostly, at best, only 0.25 percent per year.

"We don't spend two dollars. Our emergency savings will probably be in peso, but if there's dollar deposits, I probably will want to make it grow better than inflation," Fonacier said.

"We're not asking you to know how to, (since we think it will do better than local shares in the) Philippines. The typical Filipino investor has been buying condominium, club shares, stocks and bonds but being invested globally will provide you with a different asset investment that would behave differently. It's good for investors who are mainly invested in the Philippines and are seeking high-quality assets outside," Fonacier said.

He said the fund is "not for the faint-hearted as it is not expected to catapult one's investment on trip as far as yield is concerned, he noted. "But neither will you be in the bottom, from both performance and volatility standpoint," Fonacier said.

He said the launch of this fund was timely given expectations that the US dollar would gain ground against the peso. *Boris C. Dundee*

Oil firm putting up ethanol facility

Isabela plant of Eastern Petroleum to cost $30M

By Amy R. Remo

EASTERN PETROLEUM OIL PLANTS Eastern Petroleum Corp. is set to put up a $30-million ethanol plant in Isabela early next year, according to company chair and CEO Fernando Monteverde.

The ethanol facility, which will be put up by Eastern's Petroleum subsidiary Eastern Renewables Fuels Corp., will have a rated capacity of 100,000 liters a day or 30 million liters a year. Construction is expected to be completed by 2012.

In a briefing, Monteverde said the company was planning to tap local banks for financing arrangements, which may include syndicated loans.

The ethanol facility will mainly use of cassava as a feedstock, which, according to company studies and assessment, proved to be better than sugarcane.

"Our model calls for cassava ... growing and that's what we're doing in Isabela. Just last week because of this project, we have formed the Philippine Cassava Board, in cooperation with the DA (Department of agriculture), farmers, processors," Monteverde said. The model is comparative to those being used in China and Thailand, he added.

"We will be pursuing (this), in the end of the day, local production and we will be ambitious in high oil prices. Why? Because if oil hits $100 per barrel, ethanol will be 10 to 20 percent cheaper," he added.

Eastern Petroleum offers the E10 blend in its service stations but has to import its ethanol requirements.

The Biofuels Act mandates all oil companies to purchase 5 percent ethanol in their gasoline starting February 2009 to be increased to 10 percent by 2011.

Based on the Philippine Energy Plan (2007-2014), a 5-percent minimum blend would need 238.11 million liters of ethanol by 2009. With a 10-percent blend, 860.43 million liters of ethanol, or roughly a 3-million growth next would be needed by 2011.

However, there are only two companies in the Philippines, that are currently producing ethanol for gasoline blending, one of which is PCIC.

The other company is Leyte Agri Corp., which has an annual capacity of 9 million liters.

Ideally the country should have at least nine bioethanol distilleries this year, operating at a rated capacity of 300,000 liters a day and an overall efficiency of 85 percent in place, 850 would to meet national requirements. By 2015, the number of ethanol distilleries should double to 18.

Next year, the government is expecting ten more companies—Busco Bioenergy and Alcogreen Biofuels—to begin commercial operations; 12 firms by 2011; and five more by 2012.

RESORT-BOUND MELONS
Growers of the Northern Mindanao Vegetable Producers Association expect a plot planted to honeydew melons during a field workshop on honeydew melon production in Barangay Iponan, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Occidental. The workshop was provided by the association and SUMIFRU Growers with Equity in Mindanao Program. Growers, their workers and suppliers are increasing melon production, particularly in northern Mindanao, to cover the growing demand from the country's resorts and restaurants in Cebu and other parts of the Visayas.

Electricity late

SENATE PRESIDENT JUAN PONCE ENRILE thinks he found the way to cut electricity rates in this country that will free the second highest power rate in the whole of Asia.

As everybody knows, except perhaps the legislators who are already in the election campaign trails...EPIRA has filed two bills in the Senate.

In effect...EPIRA seeks to unbar the government's titles in the entire power sector—from the oil pipes all the way to the electric posts in the streets.

Of course the public is rooting for Enrile. Big business is also vocal in supporting the senator's bills.

One of JPE's senator supporters is the Foreign Chambers Council of the Philippines.

To them, only recently, JPE lambasted some foreign executives in that very same council for being "too cozy."

This probably proves once again that, in business and politics, there are no permanent enemies. Only enduring interests!

Anyway, while JPE is getting support from even the arrogant of places, his biggest problem now is time.

It's difficult to have the committee room reserved in these days!

Is there enough of time for him to convince Congress to pass these bills, critical to business survival as they may be, now that congressmen and senators are busy in other things such as their own political interests in 2010?

* * *

ONE OF the JPE bills seeks to impose a 3 percent franchise tax on the gross distribution income of energy firms, and that's it.

The tax will replace all of the many national and local taxes on power firms.

Thanks to the brilliant guys in the Department of Finance, the core administration of Gloria-ista is charging the 12 percent value-added tax (VAT) on the 32 percent corporate income tax, the franchise tax on gross receipts and all sorts of fees and charges for the government.

The other JPE bill wants to lower the government's royalties to local energy sources such as natural gas, geothermal, and hydro.

The old man, etc, the old fossil feels he's big enough now in thinking of reducing the levies close to 1 percent of "net" proceeds of the power plants using those sources.

At present, companies using the Malampaya gas must pay "royalty" to the government amounting to 17 percent of the cost of the gas. That, in other words, is highway robbery!

You can probably guess how the power companies value the money to most all those government charges. Right, they simply pass them all on to consumers.

Ooops, that means you and me.

* * *

OVER in the Solon Freeport, the fabled Cubao Bay Metropolis—the hotbed of gaming tarnok to plug the highly potent peripheral of the free port.

Smart turns to Ericsson for faster broadband service

By Doris C. Dundee

SMART COMMUNICATIONS INC. has tapped leading global telecommunications supplier Ericsson to create a nationwide network that will allow the mobile phone giant to offer faster data broadband services.

Under a new agreement, Ericsson will be Smart's main supplier of second and third-generation (2G/3G) equipment that will enable it to roll out and will take be one of the main suppliers of the radio access network in the Philippines.

The network will employ the latest HSPA technology to enable Smart to offer the highest possible 3G (WCDMA/ HSPA) speeds available in the world today. Ericsson will also provide services, network design, network deployment, training and system integration to Smart.

HSPA (high-speed packet access) refers to 3G networks that support high-speed data downloading and uploading speeds, while WCDMA (wideband code division multiple access) is the radio access technology used by 3G cellular systems that support wideband services like high-speed Internet access, video and image communication.

"We are pleased to expand our partnership with Smart," Magnus Ulvl, Ericsson Philippines vice president, said in a statement. "This contract reinforces Ericsson's technology leadership and will provide Smart with fully...the fastest speeds."

Ibid, eligible subscribers that is also a high-speed Internet service that operates over standard copper telephone lines like dial-up services, but is many times faster than dial-up.

"We are launching a much more powerful and more versatile network that will put the power of the Internet in the palms of Filipinos wherever they go," said Orlando B. Vea, president and chief executive officer of Smart Communications.

Ericsson Philippines president and country manager Rolando Fuentebella said the contract was "a remarkable milestone" for Ericsson in that it would enable the firm to launch "a commercial HSPA project in the Philippines with one of the largest mobile operators in the region."

Decline in pay TV spending seen

By Doris C. Dundee

OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ARE SPENDing less on pay TV services in view of the global economic slump, but not in a case that should worry The Fil-Ipino Channel's (TFC) control subsidiary ABS-CBN International.

"The global churn rate has gone up a bit but it has not been significant," said Eugenio Lopez III, chair of parent company ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

Churn rate is a measure of customer or subscriber attrition for a given business unit. It is the ratio of the number of customers who discontinue subscription to a certain service.

The increase in the churn rate, Lopez said, was fortunately being offset by new subscribers.

"The global numbers are actually very good for the first half of the year until we hear that even though churn rate is going up, sales still is or even have going up," Lopez said.

"There is a move from satellite to DTH (direct-to-home TV services) to cable. With cable you can buy TFC at $9 per month but with satellite you get all our channels for $25. So there's a move down a little bit. Filipinos are downgrading but are subscribing up," Lopez said.

As to geographical reasons, he said subscribers in the US would likely be affected more. The US is the epicenter of the worst credit crunch since the Great Depression of the 1930's.

"The churn rate has gone up a little but not enough to make us worried," Lopez said.

About 60 percent of ABS-CBN's revenue come from airtime or advertising sales and the remaining 40 percent from direct sales of subscriptions to cable, satellite and the Internet, and from movie box-office receipts, mobile phone services, ringtones, home video, DVDs and music CDs. Direct sales rose by P5.0 million or 9 percent to P63.2 billion in 2008.

ABS-CBN International finished in 6th product, TFC, in 1994 which is distributed by major cable operators as well as satellite operators. With content coming from its Manila and the United States, TFC provides news and entertainment programs that cater to the needs of Filipino-Americans and those in other countries.

"Through The Filipino Channel, ABS-CBN Global reaches 2 million Filipinos overseas. Beyond bringing them the best of our programming, we have also created a platform for them to sell or lend money and goods home," ABS-CBN president Ma. Rosario Sonia-e Conde said in a recent report to stockholders.

"Through our partnership with Multiply, the US online social networking site, our Kapamilya can even share experiences and memories by blogging or by posting their photos or home on the Internet," she said.

Breaktime

Conrado R. Bernal III

From what I heard, the plan is to build a virtual security dome at Subic's 14 piers and wharves, armed with radar and closed-circuit television cameras.

The system will run 24-7, aiming to detect the movements even of small watercraft like yachts, rubber boats and motorized "bancas."

The target of SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza is obvious—the age-old scourge in this country called smuggling. Take it from, Jack!

I think the whole thing can double fine as police surveillance system. If the system were already installed, for instance, then fugitive Anthony Ong could not have escaped.

Remember him—the son of his mother who was suspected of drug trafficking, smuggling and what have you? Well, he was only the guy whose valuables authorities seized some 70 billion worth of smuggled shabu. Yes, the kind of guy!

Anyway, thanks to the existing surveillance system of the SBMA, the authorities intercepted the drug shipment. Ong, unfortunately, got away. Before back-end fees, boss, when the bi-tech system is already in place.

* * *

OF COURSE some problems, particularly those related to Mr. Bahrul Gordon, are attacking the SBMA for Ang's turnover vapor.

Actually, two government agencies cited the SBMA's role in the seizure of the shabu shipment.

In private, countless of businesses in the free port also keep praises on the savagery of SBMA officials in that particular case.

It happened like this. Ong claimed, upon SBMA inspection of his cargo, that it contained biotech computer parts. They were sensitive, he said, and the shipment should not be opened. The SBMA personnel insisted on having Ong produce the shipping documents. When Ang could not, the SBMA team called PNRG, the presidential anti-smuggling group, to open the shipment. Whaddayaknow—it was shabu!

Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Director General Edmundo Reyes cited the SBMA's "vigilance" in the big haste behind the seizure of the illegal drugs.

Antonio Villar Jr. of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group (PASG) also commended the SBMA.

After all, the seizure was only the biggest haul ever in the illegal drug trafficking in this country.

And the politicos are still ranking noise? Well, it's already election time, right?

BUSINESS

WB expects deeper slump for most economies

Governments have no room for more debt, says ECB exec

TOKYO—ASSESSMENT AT BIG ASIAN economic manufacturing firms improved in the three months to June, data on Monday showed, but the World Bank said prospects for the global economy remain "unusually uncertain" as it cut 2009 growth forecasts for most economies.

Governments around the world have borrowed billions of dollars to fight the worst economic crisis in decades, providing incentives for businesses and consumers to spend and reinflating an big infrastructure programs to create jobs and stimulate activity.

European Central Bank (ECB) Presi-

dent Jean-Claude Trichet warned governments now had no room for more debt and would have to start bringing down budget deficits.

"There is a common salient point and I spend anywhere and you don't accumulate any more debts. I think we are at that moment," Trichet told Europe 1 radio on Sunday.

Like the ECB, the US Federal Reserve has cut interest rates to record low levels and used unorthodox means to pump more money into the system.

The Fed's interest rate setting committee meets on Tuesday and Wednesday and economists polled by Reuters see no chance that the Fed will raise its benchmark short-term interest rate from the current level near zero.

The Fed is also seen unlikely to ramp up its purchases of US government and mortgage-linked debt as investors focus shifts to inflation on evidence that the economy is stabilizing.

The Bank of Japan is also unlikely to wind down its stimulus policies despite the less bleak view of Japanese manufacturers, economists said.

The World Bank cut its GDP forecasts for Japan, as well as the United States and the euro area for this year and next.

The bank has recently cut its forecast for the global economy to a contraction of 2.9 percent from a March projection marked by a 1.7 percent decline. It released details on individual economies for the first time on Monday.

Evidence for a recovery remained mixed.

Asking prices for homes in most of Britain fell in June after four months of rises, but the annual rate of decline moderated to six-eight month low, property website Rightmove said on Monday.

"It is mistaken to confuse the upturn in enquiries and sales with a return to a more normal market," said Miles Shipside, Rightmove's commercial director.

"While conditions are much improved on the darkest days of last year, we are now starting to see some big distortions and wild swings due to the combined effect of the recession and restricted mortgage availability." Reuters

BPI Family Savings Bank (BPISB) answers the increasing demand for a cost-efficient means of transportation through the affordable rates of its motorcycle loan program, Ride Your Dream – allowing the purchase of brand-new units for as low as ₱1,326 a month for a ₱30,000 loan amount with a term of 36 months.

For the period of June 22 to July 31, 2009, BPISB will be giving free safety riding lessons for motorcycle loan borrowers who will avail of the program. The offer is applicable in Metro Manila and Luzon only.

The Ride Your Dream motorcycle loan makes businessmen and individuals in the first tier motorcycle lot their needs. The program not only provides easy down payment financing but includes an integrated road safety into the program. Recognizing that lack of proper training and safety guidelines has increased road accidents, BPISB partnered with Honda Safety Driving Center (HSDC) to promote road safety. To take the partnership, BPISB motorcycle loan borrowers are encouraged to undergo training on safety and responsible motoring with the Center.

"We have partnered with HSDC to promote road safety because the Center has the appropriate facilities to conduct boring and complete safety riding training programs," says Andrew Cua, BPISB Head of Motorcycle Loan Department.

Industry forecasts show that motorcycle sales in the country will continue to grow. For 2009, the growth is projected to be five percent.

"We see the Ride Your Dream program as a win-win scenario. It is at the same important to equip riders with proper training and safety guidelines as they go on the road," says Cua.

BPISB and HSDC hope that this campaign sends a strong message to the general public that everyone has a responsibility to ensure road safety.

Seeking to provide brand-seekers and motorists with a more economical alternative without compromising motorist safety, BPISB is the first major bank to offer motorcycle loans with road safety program.

To learn more about the Ride Your Dream motorcycle loan program, call 845-5555. Log on to www.bpisavingsbank.com or visit any BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch near you.

Optimism about China fires up Asian markets

BEIJING—ASIAN STOCK MARkets rose for a second session Monday with Hong Kong's benchmark spiking more than 2 percent, amid optimism about China after the Chinese premier said the economy was improving.

Still, that optimism was tempered by concern about the US economic outlook, which depressed oil prices, and led to last week's declines on Wall Street.

Investors are also worried that the huge run-up in global stock markets over the last three months may have been overdone.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index surged 394.21 points, or 2.2 percent, to 18,389.49 after China's Premier Wen Jiabao was quoted by state media over the weekend as saying China's economy was beginning to recover steadily and government stimulus spending. He said Beijing would maintain an easy credit policy to support growth.

China's Shanghai Composite index rose 26.13 points, or 0.8 percent, to 3,068.42. Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average edged up 10.81 points, or 0.1 percent, to 9,816.27, while South Korea's Kospi climbed 5.96 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,388.98.

Elsewhere in Asia, India's Sensex opened higher, climbing 0.3 percent to 14,399.34, while Australia's benchmark added 0.4 percent to 3,923.3.

Wall Street finished mixed Friday, leaving the three major indexes with their first weekly loss after four weeks of gains. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 15.87, or 0.2 percent, to 8,539.73, while the broader Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 8.3 percent to 921.10. The tech-heavy Nasdaq gained 1.1 percent to 1,827.47.

For the week, the Dow lost 1 percent, while the S&P 500 sank 2.6 percent.

Analysts are divided over whether the US market's pullback has more to go, or if it can now move higher. Traders have grown worried in recent weeks that an economic recovery in the US may be more subdued than originally hoped. Many predict choppy trading well through the summer, when there is typically less volume, and as the market heads into earnings season in July.

Oil slipped in Asia, with benchmark crude for July delivery dropping 38 cents to $69.17 a barrel. On Friday it fell $1.82 on $69.55. AP

Morals or profits: Dilemma bothers int'l firms in China

BEIJING—BEYOND HIRING good corporate citizens, do international firms operating in China have a moral duty to advance democracy and human rights?

Executives roll their eyes at the question. The typical answer is that companies know they must act on example to uphold ethical laws or face the wrath of government and the threat of stiffer regulation. But no, multinationals can't leave business dealing to Chinese politics.

Michael Santoro, a professor of business ethics at Rutgers' Business School in New Jersey, challenges that conventional view, arguing that foreign business can and should do more in the next big decade to shape social and political change in China.

In a new book, "China 2020," Santoro says it is in the economic interests of Western firms to encourage China's "unfinished partnership" with the Chinese government.

He warns them to stick their necks out and press for things such as an independent judiciary and internet freedom... especially in light of how Red China's market (but all new personal computers must carry no spyware filtering software was a clunked way of tightening censorship.

Multinationals think it would be foolish and culturally insensitive to wade into such choppy waters, but in fact they run a bigger risk if they do not get involved, Santoro says.

"Foreign investment in China will never truly be secure unless it is embedded in a society where rights, including worker rights, are respected, where the government is democracy is effective in enforcing market regulations, and where a strong and independent rule of law protects the rights and economic interests of its citizens," Santoro said.

The publications of the book coincides with the seventieth anniversary of the killings of hundreds around Beijing's Tiananmen Square after weeks of protests against corruption and lack of freedom of speech.

The date may make foreign executives that Santoro is seeking to ask two actions any more receptive to his arguments.

Joerg Wuttke, president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, told foreign firms should not have to justify themselves by showing that they are working towards the ideal of democratic institutions.

"In the real world, their influence on local governments is minimal," Wuttke said. "Moreover, multinationals are unlikely to exercise whatever influence they might have to include hints of this adversely affects the efficiency and profitability of their normal business operations."

On the ground, international companies were making a practical difference in China under the broad banners of corporate social responsibility he said.

They might not fight for freedom of speech, but firms were raising workplace standards, investing in skills and seeking quantifiable energy and environmental protection targets.

Santoro says the investment money Chinese feel over outside civilians should not prevent foreign businesses, flushed by their governments, from adopting an agenda for change.

"Multinational corporations do possess great power, wealth, and influence, and therefore they do have a responsibility to help to shoulder the burdens of redressing human rights," he writes. Reuters

LIFESTYLE Wellness
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
Mobile Alert | Email | Website

How Freddy Gonzalez maintains balance in business and board sports

By Marge C. Enriquez
Lifestyle Reporter

Don't call him 'surfer dude.' He is a businessman, foremost

A BUFFED Freddy Gonzalez, icon of board sports, catches the waves.

THERE ARE LOTS OF myths, long sources that accost continuously without breathing, in Subic. And Alfredo "Freddy" Ramon Gonzalez is lured to spend a weekend cruising along the spaces. He, duly calls: "I'm super tempered to go there. Not at the back of my head: 'This has to get done.' If I'm out of the office, who's going to coordinate? I don't like to micromanage. [But] I like to know when people are doing. If I'm not there, things may get delayed by one day," he says.

Gonzalez, 51, is synchronized with youth culture, particularly the visit of surfers and skaters. Don't call him "surfer dude," a laid-back guy who's life is literally a beach. He is a businessman, foremost.

Frequently shod in flip-flops even before it became a trend, Gonzalez and his wife Anne introduced the Brazilian fashion slipper, Havaianas, to the Philippines, but recently attended board meetings as managing director, while Anne and five friends, vice president for business development, handle the operations. Gonzalez lives and breathes board sports—with occasional football.

Sports came naturally to Gonzalez. As a hyperactive child, he entered skateboarding at six years old. He picked up the difficult skills just by watching videos. In his teens, he took up football and joined the national team from 1976 to 1979. In 2003, Gonzalez played for the Vietnam league, but came home after a year to build up Havaianas.

Some time ago, Gonzalez and his wife spent a month-long vacation in his sister's home in Diamond Head, Waikiki, famous for huge surfs.

Year-round sport

Surfing has taken him all over the country—from La Union to Siargao. His businesses augur well with his lifestyle and his education. Gonzalez's degree is Sociology as the University of Dela Salle prepared him for sports and business. "I like studying cultures, people, how society acts, and its subcultures," says Gonzalez. "Skaters have a punk rock image. They are nonconformists and tend to break away from established norms. Surfers just enjoy life. They get on the board and ride on the waves." He adds that the waves should reflect the culture of the board sports.

In the Philippines, surfing season is year-round. Surfers plan their trips by checking the websites specializing in wave forecasting.

Gonzalez cited the season in La Union as the best for surfing. "The waves can be hit by any swell, whether it's coming from the North or from the South China Sea." Besides, it has become accessible and boasts of a growing community, replete with resorts, restaurants, bars and surf schools.

As a fitness regimen, he explains that board sports in general work out the whole body and develop core strength. Basic paddling requires coordinated arm strokes while keeping the body weight evenly distributed on the center of the board. In stand-up paddling, the surfer uses a paddle to reach more waves.

"There are two types of surfing: Prone surfing, in which you're lying down on the board, and stand-up paddle surfing, where you're standing on a big gun and thicker board. When you're standing, you paddle over the waves and surf them. That's how the ancient Hawaiians used to surf. It's good for your balance because it develops all the little muscles that stabilize your body from the waist down. In paddling, the whole trunk area is at work. In prone surfing, you can't lie flat and paddle as if you're swimming. You've got to arch your back and dig into the water. It uses the middle part of your back which is hardly worked, even if you do weights in the gym," explains Gonzalez.

"First timers should get on a 9-ft board which is thicker, wider and keeps you above the water, so it is easy to paddle. You'll catch a lot more waves and enjoy yourself more. When you're good enough, that's when you get into the short board. The high performance board is tough, even when you sit on it, you're not stable."

Getting started

Developing the correct stance and establishing the phenomena of the body weight are vital in maintaining the balance on the board. It sounds simple, but if you don't know where to look, how to hold your arms, use your core muscles and the front and back legs, you're in trouble.

He describes the surfer's body as wiry, not like the bodied bodybuilder. "Their limbs and core are very defined. When you prop yourself up, you need to stabilize your core for balance, or else you're going to fall off."

Surfing can also be a cross-training program without the waves. It builds upper body strength and endurance.

To get started with surfing, Gonzalez recommends proper training. "Enroll at surf school and rent a board. Once you get into it and want to continue, you can invest in a long board. It will cost P32,000 for a basic board," he says. Surfing schools such as Club Manila East in Tanay or the Philippine Surf Academy include lessons with pools.

When he's not surfing, Gonzalez engages in skateboarding for two hours. He finds it easier exercising to do an overall workout.

Asked what he likes about board sports, Gonzalez replies: "For me, it's a way of challenging myself."

These sports present a psychic reward, says Gonzalez: "In team sports like football, you're always after and outside—the same and the trophy. With board sports, you'll never do the same thing in the same way. Waves every minute are surfer, everybody has his own style. It's self-expression."

GARFIELD

FUSAO BABOY

LOKSHOTTE

DIVINE COMEDY

TULOOK

STOMO AND WEEDY

EXO MACHINE

JL LIPIN

DICK TRACY

JAMES BOND

BABY BLUES

SEN

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DIANE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu

By Dave Harris

8			5	6		7		
	2			7				
			4		1			9
2		4	7			3		
1	3						8	6
		8			4	2		1
3			8		5			
				4			6	
		1		9	6			2

Level: Easy | Time: ★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	2	4	1	6	5	8	9	3
9	5	6	8	3	4	7	1	2
8	3	1	9	7	2	5	4	6
1	8	7	2	9	3	4	6	5
5	6	9	5	4	8	2	7	1
2	4	3	6	1	7	9	5	8
6	7	3	4	8	6	1	2	9
4	1	2	3	5	9	6	8	7
6	9	8	7	2	1	3	5	4

Is Your Child Over Nourished?

Overnutrition is increasingly affecting Filipino children. In the 2003 National Nutrition Survey conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), it was showed that through the years, there was an increase in the number of overweight Filipino children aged 3-5.

While we know that the problem on overweight and obesity may result from a number of factors, increased intake of high energy foods combined with reduced physical activity are the more common factors, especially for children.

Too Much Sugar in Kids' Diets

Many medical experts think that excess consumption of refined sugars have contributed to the dramatic rise of obesity in the United States. Thus, parents should be aware of excessive sugar in their children's food and beverages.

The FNRI recommends that children aged 4-9 take no more than 5 teaspoons of sugar a day. This pertains to common table sugar, usually added in food products like cakes, pastries, biscuits, cereals, sodas, juices and even milk.

Sweets and Teeth

Eating too many sugary foods can lead to tooth decay, especially when combined with poor oral hygiene. Bacteria in the mouth feed on sugars and produce acids that eat away tooth enamel and dental structure. Also, beverages with high sugar content are more likely to cause dental caries when sipped slowly over an extended period of time.

Lost Appetite, Lost Nutrition?

Children may also lose their appetite when sugary foods or beverages are consumed soon before meal times. Thus, children are filled with empty calories and miss out on the nutrients from a varied and balanced diet. If unchecked, this may lead not only to overnutrition, but vitamin and mineral deficiencies that may affect their development.

Possible Long-Term Effects

Regular consumption of high-sugar foods and beverages may also predispose children to sweet flavors. Since eating habits are formed in early childhood, this may lead to a high-calorie diet that may lead to obesity if combined with an inactive lifestyle.

Moderation is Key

The key to keeping sugar consumption in check is moderation. Sugar can enhance the taste of some foods, but how can you tell how much sugar is in these products?

Check the Carbohydrate Content

One way is to check the label. For example, when it comes to pre-school milk, check the carbohydrate content. Sugar is listed as part of total carbohydrates. That's why, generally, in milk, high carbohydrates could mean high sugar.

Building a Healthy Lifestyle

Armed with these facts, parents can make more informed choices in planning their children's diet. By checking the sugar intake of their children, they will have more room for the essential nutrients that count, and are building a healthy nutrition foundation that may well last a lifetime.

Does your child's milk give you the best value for your money?

Be sure that you're paying for more milk, less sugar.

Check the Label

Source: Sugar analysis of 3+ pre-school milk (LTR 121956 to 121963), SGS, April 2009.
Note: "Sugar" refers to sucrose content per 1 tbsp can of 3+ milk.

Not all milk are made the same; some have more sugar than others.
To find out how much sugar is in your child's milk,
check the carbohydrate content.
Generally, in milk:

high carbohydrates could mean high sugar

NIDO 3+ has the lowest carbohydrate
and sugar content among 3+ pre-school milk.
Make it a habit. It pays to check the label!

See The Difference NIDO 3+

Pinay crosses 4 states in 1st month of 'Takbong Pangarap'

DR. JOY BOLAS' FIRST EVER visit to the United States, the magazine writer and editor has seen and done things most Americans and seasoned travelers can only dream of, thanks to her 2010-America project called "Takbong Pangarap."

Traversing 12 states of the country on foot, beginning in Eagle Rock Plaza Mall in Glendale, Los Angeles last May 10, Bolas, together with long-time running partner Hans Blaisko, has ran past such landmarks as the historic Route 66, the world's largest thermometer in Baker, CA; Nevada's Lake Mead and Mojave Desert; and the 21st National Park in Utah. While a strong cure on Bryce and Mueller's third day led them to say the Blessed Bully did cancel, where they ran most for the very first time, their fondest memory appears to be running 20 miles across three states—the Images of Nevada, Arizona, and Utah—all on a single day.

Bolas and Mueller, who were met by members of the press and top executives of Takbong Pangarap's sponsor, Western Union, after a one-mile run in Las Vegas, Nevada's Strip, are now in Denver, Colorado, where they plan to visit Western Union's headquarters. The two are expected to reach their "finish line"—the Philippine Consulate on 5th Avenue in New York—in September.

In an effort to make other people's dreams come true, Takbong Pangarap hopes to raise funds for two shuttles, the Social Services Division of the Philippine Heart Center, and the first TB program of the Inner Wheel Club of Quezon City. Takbong Pangarap is sponsored by Western Union, Solaris Advertising, Smart Communications, Selfdas, SpiritAde, Asian Journal Publications, Pinay in Action, Sony Ericsson, Shoprite, HSBC, The Peninsula Manila, and Philippine Online Chronicles.

Interested parties or sponsors who wish to contribute to Joy's dream may e-mail joybolas@ols.com.ph, or contact Sheila Rivera at 817-2073.

JOY BOLAS (above Lake Mead National Park, Nevada.

New spa in Cebu

THE SPA AT CEBU (TSAC) OPENS at Ayala Center Cebu's Terraces. The new facility has 13 spa rooms equipped with top-of-the-line spa facilities offering services such as shiatsu, Swedish massage, aromatherapy, Hawaiian Lomi Lomi and foot massage. It also has herbal and body treatments that include Exotic Facial, Honey & Milk Floral Bath and Hot Stone Treatment.

The Spa at Cebu's main facility in Banilad is the largest and most luxurious indoor and outdoor spa in Metro Cebu. This plush 3000-sq.m. spa facility can accommodate a large number of clients at the same time with the best quality service. The Banilad facility has over 100 massage beds with first-class facilities, complete with indoor and outdoor sauna, steam room, Jacuzzi and swimming pool. It has couples rooms, solo steam, showers, lounges, lockers, VIP rooms, conference massage rooms and bamboo rooms, which can accommodate parties. It also houses Honeymoon Spa Suites for overnight stay and provides complimentary aromatherapy massage for the couple. Visit www.thespacebu.com.

VCO, olive and sunflower oil help remove body toxins

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

BELIEVE IT OR not, our mouth is populated by bacteria, viruses, fungi and protozoa.

Fact #1: The populations of bacteria living in our mouth exceeds the world population of roughly 10 billion. Also, there are over 600 types of bacteria found in the mouth.

Fact #2: Constant brushing of teeth only weakens the potency of the sealant, leaving plaque in hard-to-reach areas. In fact, infection begins inside the enamel.

Fact #3: Gum is the mouth's orgasm to other parts of the body.

Ancient practice

Two thousand years ago in India, the art of "oil pulling" was used in maintaining good health. Indians swallow an ayurvedic medicinal tonic described oil pulling as a wonderful oil gargling which detoxes the mouth and restores good health.

Said to cure 30 systemic diseases ranging from bad breath, to migraine, sinusitis, asthma, high blood pressure and diabetes, draining the mouth with oil delivers good results.

According to Dr. Bruce Fife, author of "Oil Pulling Therapy," the theory behind oil pulling is simple. Microorganisms inside the mouth literally bond with the oil—virgin coconut, olive or sunflower—start to remove the mouth and become relatively short (minutes will do).

1. Take 1-3 tsp of oil in your mouth upon waking up. Swish around the mouth for 15-20 minutes.

2. Spit out the sullied white substance.

3. Expect other effects like expelled excessive mucus from your nasal passages. Do not be alarmed. Be happy it's not of you.

Minor aches and joints, flu-like conditions and sluggishness may occur. It only means healing has begun.

Practicing what I preach, I started oil pulling using virgin coconut oil one month ago. Since then, my allergies & sensitive conditions has been under control. And when I feel that a sinusitis attack is imminent, I "oil pull" twice a day upon waking up and before bedtime.

Benefits

Virgin coconut oil has health and beauty benefits, and anti-viral and anti-fungal properties. Take 2-3 tbsp daily with your breakfast for tremendous energy and turbo-charged metabolism. Apply 2-3 drops Cocolux beauty oil or Sevenskin facial VCO to rejuvenate skin. (Call World of Wellness at 723-3870.)

Affleur, "I am looking and feeling better everyday."

Love and light!

Does being seen in two places herald death?

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

Bilocation is not as rare a phenomenon as many people think

HERE'S A QUESTION about bilocation from a radio reader whose name he requested to be withheld:

"On two separate occasions, my officemates had seen me in the office during times I was absent.

"I did some research and found it may be described as bilocation. Based on my readings, this is characteristic of the phenomenon. The scary thing is that it could herald death. Can you please enlighten me on this?"

Bilocation means "being seen in two places at the same time."

It is not as rare a phenomenon as many people think, and it does not necessarily herald death.

Bilocation happens when one's astral body detaches itself from one's physical body and travels without the person being aware of it. The astral body is sometimes called the "double body" because it goes to where the person wants to go, either consciously or unconsciously.

Many saints of the Catholic Church have been known to bilocate. There was, for example, the story of a saint who was at that time in jail. At the same time, many miles away, he was seen officiating Mass in a church with two other priests.

Psychic dreams

Here's another letter from a reader about psychic dreams:

"Is it normal for a person to dream of things to come? I dream of incidents and events, either good or bad, and after a day or two or sometimes a week, these dreams happen in my waking state.

"When I dream of these future events they are so vivid, as if I were really there. My husband always tells me that I sweat-talk in my sleep. I hope you can enlighten me."

CLAIRE

Dreams are the language of our unconscious mind, and our subconscious is a vast repository of knowledge of past, present and even future events. Under certain circumstances, we can tap the almost unlimited knowledge of our subconscious mind.

Australian aborigines believe that before anything happens in physical reality, it is first dreamed of. Therefore, your dreams are normal. Many people dream of future events that come. That's part of their psychic gifts.

Psychic power can manifest not only when we are awake, but also when we are asleep. Psychic or "precognitive dreaming" is one of them.

So we should never ignore them even if they do not at first make sense to us.

The next Inner Mind Development seminar is on July 4-5, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at the 3SWIM Inner Phase / Cont., 106 Legaspi St., Greenhills, Mandaluyong. Call 810-7243/892-6806; fax 413-9945; e-mail letmethesecret@yahoo.com.

Lito Zulueta Q. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

Wanted: American Boyle

LOS ANGELES—FULL HOUSE DO GET TRUE, which stars Susan Lucci, find its true home. Maybe? "She had a huge effect on Britain's Got Talent," Piers Morgan, the British judge on both competitions, says. "She's the biggest star from any talent show ever." AP

CHEER FACTOR

Zsazsa would rather not confront Dong

ZSAZSA: "I prefer I don't create a scene if we meet in south either."

By Marinel R. Cruz

SHE STILL HAS framed pictures of her daughter Rayelle with ex-boyfriend Dingdong Dantes all over her house, admitted Zsazsa Padilla.

"One time, Dolphy (her long time partner) asked me 'Yaan ka time you go there away?' Ankukuha namin kay E. Rey(Bello) 'di ba? I will eventually find time to do it. Kasi na-meet Dong was a part of the family when they were together," the singer told us during the launch of her latest album, "Unchanging Love" under Polyeast Records.

"Buwis biya it make a small basis ng," Zsazsa said. "Dong and I are bound to meet in south each other more. I pray that I don't create a scene. Unlikely, I would be confrontational. The upside of what happened to Rayelle was that people realized how intelligent she is. Saw well she coped with certain situations. I'm happy she's finally recovered."

Zsazsa admitted she suffered from depression when her 2003 wedding with Dolphy was cancelled. She was set about to go through that anytime soon, she said.

"Everything was ready. I had the wedding gown and everything inside. It was the perfect time to get married. It was a good thing I hadn't sent the invitations," said Zsazsa, who has two daughters with Dolphy—Nicole and Zia.

She said the announcement of her marriage to Raffy Tulfo in Mendiola Tuesday night, hit another

ZSAZSA C2

PROMO EXTENDED! GRAB IT BEFORE IT'S GONE!

THE GIFT OF GLOWING SKIN NEVER SO AFFORDABLE!

Shine in your natural beauty even without makeup – just softer, smoother, and clearer skin. Acne scars, age spots, fine lines, uneven skin tone, clogged pores, all gone! Getting radiant skin is now made affordable with a promo you just can't resist! Don't waste time! Call now for a FREE consultation.

892-SKIN (7546)

BUY 1 TAKE 1 ON DIAMOND PEEL until June 27, 2009 only

facial care CENTRE

MAKATI • ORTIGAS • TOMAS MORATO • BINONDO • ALABANG • BF&N • CONGRESSIONAL • PAMPANGA (NU-340A) • CEBU (255-7611)

DIAMOND PEEL has been tried and tested, and is highly recommended by...

"Thanks to Diamond Peel, people still find me pretty even if I don't wear makeup!"
Agot Isidro, Actress

"I'm a big fan of Diamond Peel. I make it a point to get it every two weeks, and more especially when I have an upcoming shoot or event. I put on a lot of makeup with my work so it's important to rejuvenate my skin with Diamond Peel."
- Angel Jacob, Celebrity

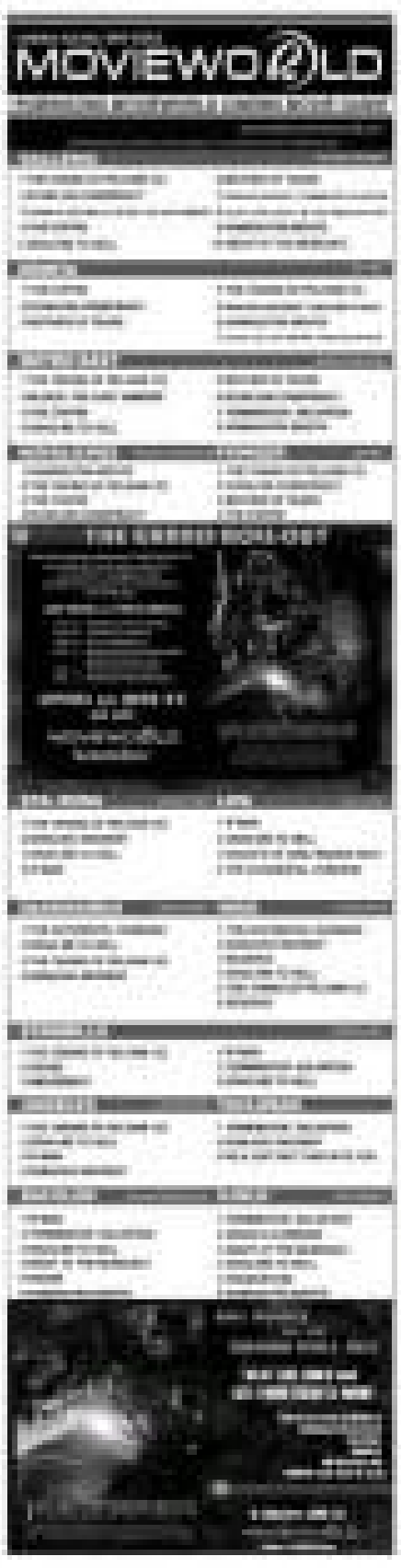
"I don't like peels that are obvious, the ones that make the skin dry and flaking. That's why I love Diamond Peel. My skin's dead cells are removed, plus my pores are minimized!"
- Cenni Marfil, Actress/Interior Designer

"I noticed a change in my face when I had Diamond Peel. It became firmer and my skin tone evened out. People I work with notice the difference, too."
Donna Cruz Lanuzo, Actress

"It actually feels like a tiny vacuum on your face. I feel all the clogged pores are being sucked out clean. I love how my skin looks and feels after."
Janine Jeanne Alonzo, Bag Designer

"I like how Diamond Peel clears up my skin's pigment and makes my face smoother."
Charie Gil, Actress

Marilou's fortitude defines her and inspires others



Precious rules out romance with Willie

PRECIOUS LARA QUIGAMAN SHIELDS off rumors that Willie Revillame is wooing her. In one terrific buck, she was booted out of "Showtime" because she brought along her boyfriend to their show in the United States. The buzz was that Willie had his eyes set on Precious but since she was spoken for already, it didn't sit too well with Willie.

She's now back in the show every Saturday. How that she has split up with her longtime BF will she give Willie (who has broken up with his GF Sandara) a chance? "Sometime! It's hard to tell when he is serious," says Lara. "Or when he's just doing it for the show. I look Willie like a boss and walking me to I think the love angle is not possible." Will Willie's charm make the impossible possible?

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Tiff over 'rackets'

JOJO Estrada and **Roxanne Guinoo** had a ET till during the taping of "Everybody Hapy." Jojo reprimanded Roxanne because she had to leave for another commitment. Jojo told her that all of that should be dedicated to their show and not leave for other "rackets" until their taping is over.

Roxanne snapped back at him, "Eng ehem mo. Bisop consolidated na kasabay ng taping, we want na nga for you to come back."

Hopefully next taping, cooler heads will intervene so their shows won't have labo "Everybody happy."

Better safe

JAKE Cuenca got bruised during a shoot. It was only a minor injury yet he demanded to be brought to the hospital. "Gabe lang sa pasok ng Betadine," said a relative. "Pero tuguan nyo sa ER."

Jake would rather be safe than sorry and sorry.

Expecting again

TONYA Gutierrez-Reiboun is babydumping again! Her adorable daughter Anya is already 4 years old. Jim and Jakes are hoping for a baby boy this time, I intend Tia. "See what your Ate could can do! Sorry loads to pagtatalon ha."

We both find a good laugh. Motherhood is something Tanya seems to excel.

Without Pops

JOMARI Yllana approached me at work as I entered as the wake of **Tito Dongs**. Jaderen was so close all over his face so to lighten the mood, I teased him. "Has Dops visited?" He replied, "Yesterday but I wasn't around. She rang me at the Mass." I chided him some more. "Siempre ano ba sa cuda ka dito para di kayo mag-alot si Dyna?" before he could reply the paparazzi and TV cameras were hounding us so we left hagged. Between good friends, explanations are unnecessary anyway.

Next time

FREDDIE Evasco has successful two-month concert tour in the United States. **Sarah Geronimo** left the road again in "The Next One Philippine Tour 2009" at CSI Smoke Dungeon (June 20), Lauderdale Atrium Cagayan de Oro (July 25, 26), La Salle Coliseum Bacolod (July 17), Waterfront Hotel Cebu (July 31), San Agustin Eyra Bohol (Aug. 22), Tacloban City Convention Center (Aug. 28) and Holy Cross Gym Davao (Sept. 20). Her soldout concerts at the Big Dome "The Next One" is now on DVD with bonus music such as Behind The Scenes, Photo Gallery and Discography.

Season finales

CATCH more ear season finales on Studio 23. Pilipinas a life-changing moment for Betty Sasser Gimnicks Pyramid in the Season 3 finale of "Ugly Betty" tonight at 8. Watch the Perfect Ten their toughest year yet in the dramatic season ender of "Brothers and Sisters" on Easter 10, 9 p.m. More reasons to stay glued to the Kabuhayan and Kadramas station.

PERSONAL: Happy Anniversary to our couple Ayeli and Family.

E-mail: reidorlaghetlaing@ag@yahoo.com

odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO

Baby James steady at No. 2

THE PHILIPPINES' TOP MUSIC albums for the week June 8-14, based on Odyssey Music & Video stores chain's sales reports:

Overall

1) Willie Revillame, "Bow Sa Ngo" (BR Records); 2) Jim Agulos & Baby James, "My Ate Jay 1" (Star Records); 3) Charice, "My Inspiration," (Star); 4) Willie Revillame, "Gilag Gilag," (Star); 5) Metro Manila, "Metro Station," (Star Music); 6) Jed Madela, "Songs Rediscovered 2," (Universal Records); 7) Richard Poon, "Tie Yau," (MCA Music); 8) The Pussycat Dolls, "Doll Domination 2.0," (MCA); 9) Tinker Bell, "Soulmo," (MCA); 10) The Black Eyed Peas "The E.N.D.," (WEA).

OPM

1) Willie Revillame, "Bow Sa Ngo" (BR); 2) Jim Agulos & Baby James, "My Ate 1," (Star); 3) Charice, "My Inspiration," (Star); 4) Willie Revillame, "Gilag Gilag," (BR); 5) Jed Madela, "Songs Rediscovered 2," (Universal); 6) Richard Poon, "Tie Yau," (MCA); 7) Richard Poon, "I'll Take Care Of You," (MCA); 8) Gary Valenciano, "Composition," (Star); 9) Thanx, "I Miss Them Them, "Pre Always," (Myrkart Records); 10) Gary Valenciano, "The Platinum Ballad Collection," (Universal).

US top 10

1) "Boom Boom Pow," The Black Eyed Peas, Interscope; 2) "I Gotta Feeling," The Black Eyed Peas, Interscope; 3) "Knock You Down," Kat Allen, Interscope; 4) "I Know You Want Me (Calle Ocho)," Pitbull (Rec. 5) "Lovestoned," Lady GaGa, Interscope; 6) "Birthday Sex," Jeremih; 7) "Poker Face," Lady GaGa, Interscope; 8) "Use Somebody," Kings Of Leon, Relativity; 9) "Halo," Beyonce, Music World/Columbia.

4P

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

Greenhills Cinemas · Eastwood Cinemas · Power Plant Cinema · Shang Cineplex · Walter Mart